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Japan

Revised Liberalization List Submitted to GATT

OW0109131493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1236 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 1 KYODO—Japan has submitted to the secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) a revised list of possible market opening areas, including finance, shipping and other service sectors, the government said Wednesday [1 September]. It said the step was in line with an agreement on the scope of market opening reached at a ministerial meeting in Tokyo in July by quadrilateral trading partners.

The group consists of Japan, Canada, the United States and the European Community.

Under the agreement, Japan pledged to remove restrictions in the service sectors and the inflow of foreign capital.

'Sources': Australia, New Zealand May Sue Tokyo

OW0809095793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0950 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 8 KYODO—Australia and New Zealand have threatened to file a suit against Japan with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) unless Tokyo opens its market for dairy products and starch, Japanese Government sources said Wednesday [8 September].

The sources told KYODO NEWS SERVICE it is likely that GATT would rule against Japan, and noted that the possible action could increase pressure on Tokyo to liberalize its agricultural imports toward the end of this year. The sources said the threat may be part of a strategy to put pressure on Japan since liberalization of agricultural goods is also being discussed at the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Australia and New Zealand made their first approach to Japan last year when they sought access to Japan's dairy product market.

Last September, Japan agreed with the United States to extend its bilateral trade accord on dairy products and starch for three years beginning in fiscal 1992. The agreement calls for Japan to expand its imports of cheese-related products by 2,000-10,000 tons per year.

That ignited criticism from such countries as Australia, which termed the move discriminatory. They have been urging Japan to increase the imports of such products as powdered milk and cheese.

But the Japanese Government has refused immediate expansion of foreign access to Japanese markets for agricultural goods, pointing to the need to revise related laws.

The sources said Tokyo dispatched farm officials to Australia and New Zealand in July to explain the Japanese stance, but the effort was unsuccessful.

The U.S. filed a similar suit against Japan with GATT, which ruled against Japan on 10 import items including dairy products.

Japan then opened bilateral talks with the U.S. to liberalize eight areas such as beef and pork products. With respect to dairy products, however, Tokyo merely said it would make efforts to improve access. The Japanese Government said some problems exist with regard to the interpretation of GATT rules.

Bank Buys Record 8.5 Billion Dollars in Yen

OW0109045393 Tokyo KYODO in English 2347 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 1 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) bought a record 8.5 billion dollars in August to curb the yen's sharp rise, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said Wednesday [1 September]. The major economic daily said the amount surpasses the previous record of 7.5 billion dollars spent in March 1987 after an accord among the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers to buttress the free-falling dollar.

The central bank has continually intervened in the currency market since April, when the yen advanced above the landmark 115 yen line on speculation that the United States and other major nations want a strong yen to reduce their trade deficits with Japan.

The aggregate dollar-buying, yen-selling intervention from April to July amounted to 16 billion dollars. With the August figure added, the sum came to 25 billion dollars, making it likely that total used in interventions this year will top the previous record 37 billion dollars registered in 1987.

Nakanishi Hints at Joining U.S. Anti-Missile Plan

OW0809105793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1049 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 8 KYODO—Director General of the Defense Agency Keisuke Nakanishi indicated Wednesday [8 September] that Japan may join a U.S. missile defense plan to ward off North Korea's newly developed medium-range Nodong 1 missile, which is capable of hitting most parts of Japan.

"Taking into account (that we need) specialized defense, we have to make utmost efforts to provide comprehensive protection," Nakanishi said, referring to the U.S.-proposed Tactical Missile Defense Initiative (TMDI), a part of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), aimed at developing rapid-response antimissiles.

Nakanishi made his remarks at a press conference at the Self-Defense Forces' air base in Komatsu, Ishikawa Prefecture.

A final decision on Japan's joining the project, however, will require a Diet resolution acknowledging Japan's right to participate in collective, space-based defense, Nakanishi pointed out.

He said he expects debate on the issue to last more than a year before consensus is reached. Under TDMI, the U.S. plans to set up a network of monitoring devices in space that would warn of missile attacks in time to destroy them with anti-missile before they reach their targets.

Nakanishi also expressed concern about the potential threat from North Korea. "People familiar with the circumstances also say that (Iraq) used North Korean missiles in the Gulf war," he said. "Doesn't that mean that (North Korea's) advanced technology is better developed than we imagined?"

Tokyo and Washington will discuss potential cooperation in the space-based anti-missile scheme during the upcoming visit of a senior defense department official to Japan starting September 21, Nakanishi said.

Tokyo and Washington agreed in early August to set up a joint working group to map out defense measures after North Korea was found to have successfully test-launched a 1000-kilometer range Nodong I missile over the Sea of Japan in May.

Fuji Photo Denies Kodak's Dumping Charge

OW0109045993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0428 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 1 KYODO—Fuji Photo Film Co. on Wednesday [1 September] challenged a charge filed by Eastman Kodak Co. of the United States that Japan's top maker of photographic paper has sold its products at unfairly low prices in the U.S. market. "We cannot quite understand how the dumping margins are determined," a Fuji Photo official said.

The company said, however, that it cannot take any actions before it closely studies the Kodak petition, filed with the Commerce Department and the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Kodak argued that Fuji Photo film has sold color negative photographic paper made by its Japanese and Dutch factories at prices as low as one-fourth those of identical products in the countries of production.

Other Japanese photographic paper makers which set their prices in the U.S. at levels similar to those of Fuji Photo Film are worried that they may be also targeted. Mitsubishi Paper Mills Ltd. said it is "trying to confirm whether we are also targeted."

The second-ranked Konica Corp. said, however, that there is little likelihood of it being accused of dumping because it has served the U.S. market with exclusively locally made products since last year.

U.S. Urges Retaining Some Curbs on Insurance

OW0609052393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0508 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 6 KYODO—The United States has asked Japan not to totally bring down the barrier between the life and nonlife insurance sectors, Japanese Government sources said Monday [6 September].

The request reflects Washington's worries that the Japanese plan to deregulate the insurance market will lead to increased competition in a type of insurance business where U.S. companies enjoy dominance, they said.

U.S. insurance houses have garnered what industry analysts called "a rather big" share in the so-called third insurance sector including medical, disability and nursing insurance, especially in cancer insurance, which few of their Japanese rivals have dealt with.

The third sector combines the characteristics of both life and nonlife insurance businesses, the sources said.

Liberalization of the Japanese insurance market is one of the focal points in Japanese-U.S. talks over the new trade framework aimed at slimming Japan's huge trade surplus. The next round of talks is slated for this month.

A senior Finance Ministry official said the U.S. request will not affect a Japanese plan to allow life and nonlife insurance companies to enter each other's turf.

Ministry sources, however, said that Japan may be forced to review the original plan, such as the timing of its implementation.

The sources said the U.S. side has also called for the introduction in Japan of a brokering system for insurance sales.

Under the system, brokers would choose for would-be policyholders from a range of products offered by insurance houses, in accordance with the customer's needs.

The Japanese Government has not opposed the idea and when and how such a system can be introduced will be discussed at the coming bilateral negotiations, the sources said.

Burbulis Urges Study of Kurils, Joint Investment

OW0709154493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1520 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Nemuro, Hokkaido, Sept. 7 KYODO—Former Russian secretary of state Gennadiy Burbulis on

Tuesday [7 September] proposed establishing a committee of academics to study the history of four Russian-held islands at the center of a longstanding diplomatic row with Japan.

The private-sector committee would comprise both Russian and Japanese academics as well as representatives selected from among Nemuro citizens, said Burbulis who is regarded as a key aide to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Burbulis put forward the proposal in a meeting at a Nemuro hotel with municipal government officials and former Japanese islanders expelled from the islands by the Soviet Red Army at the end of World War II.

Burbulis is currently in Japan on a 10-day visit to exchange views with Japanese leaders in preparation for a promised visit by Yeltsin in mid-October. He met with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa last Friday.

A Burbulis aide also proposed studying the possibility of extending compensation to current Russian residents of the four islands who were ordered by the Soviet Government to move to the islands after the 1945 seizure. The aide also called for a study on a proposal to pay reparations to former Japanese islanders expelled by the Red Army.

Burbulis also proposed designating the four islands as the subjects of Russo-Japan joint economic development in a bid to expedite Japanese capital investment in the islands. The Russian Government is "ready to consider giving most privileged investment terms" for Japanese investors who agree to pump capital into the area, he said.

Japan has refused to promote large-scale economic cooperation for Russia until progress is seen in the territorial fray.

Burbulis on 'Severe Political Power Struggle'

OW0809140093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1354 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 8 KYODO—A top aide to Boris Yeltsin expressed fear Wednesday [8 September] of returning to Moscow, where he said a "severe political power struggle" is emerging.

Former State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis said he fears for his political future because of conciliatory remarks he made in Japan about Russian-held islands claimed by Tokyo. He described the ongoing standoff between Yeltsin and his parliamentary foes as "severe."

Burbulis outlined his concerns in a lecture of academics, dietmen and journalists at a Tokyo hotel. "As I made various positive remarks on the territorial dispute, I fear how the parliamentary foes of Yeltsin will respond to me when I return," he said.

Burbulis has been an ally of Yeltsin since the days when the president was a local bureaucrat in the Ural mountains province of Yekaterinberg. He is on a 10-day visit at the invitation of the Council on National Security Problems, a private think tank backed by the Foreign Ministry. It precedes a scheduled visit to Japan by Yeltsin in mid-October.

Burbulis also said he expects to draw flak back home for his criticism of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who on August 17 denied a territorial dispute existed.

Burbulis depicted the 1945 seizure of the islands by the Red Army as an "aggressive crackdown by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin against peace-loving Japanese islanders. Sooner or later, the islands will be returned to Japan and justice will be restored," he said, without offering a date.

The row revolves around the islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets, which lie north of Hokkaido.

Burbulis, who has just returned from a two-day visit to the Hokkaido city of Nemuro, which is less than 30 kilometers from the Habomais, said, "I needed to watch how former islanders who suffered the cruel experiences in the 1940s are living at present."

He proposed creating a "common economic zone" in which the Hokkaido business community and the four islands would be authorized by both governments to bolster trade, investment and other forms of economic exchange.

Burbulis also proposed providing status similar to that of most-favored-nation to Japanese business concerns wanting to step up trade and expedite capital transfers.

Burbulis appealed to the audience not to interpret his proposal as a ploy to create a fait accompli and undermine the Japanese position to link progress in territorial negotiations to its readiness to extend full-fledged aid to Moscow. He said he will convey his analysis of Japan's diplomatic position on the territorial fray and his proposals for expediting bilateral economic cooperation when he returns to Russia.

Burbulis criticized dumping by the former Soviet Union and Russia of obsolete nuclear submarine reactors and other radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan as "the heritage Russia took over from the past totalitarian regime."

But Burbulis stopped short of saying the Russian Government should clean up the waste or locate the dumping sites in a single-handed effort, and instead called for multilateral help. He also called attention to radioactive pollution inside the Russian republics, saying, various ethnic groups are most at risk.

In talks on April 15 between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and then Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto, Kozyrev agreed to investigate the dumping. The next day, the chief spokesman of the Russian Pacific fleet said Russia May resume nuclear dumping into the sea.

'War-Displaced' Women From PRC Moved

OW0609063393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0621 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Narita, Chiba Pref., Sept. 6 KYODO—The Health and Welfare Ministry on Monday [6 September] moved 12 Japanese women from China to temporary accommodation in nearby Saitama Prefecture after they spent a night at Narita Airport seeking permanent residence in Japan.

The women moved to a center for war-displaced Japanese in Tokorozawa after ministry officials spoke to them at the airport, where they spent the night demanding permanent residence in Japan after their arrival Sunday. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

They gathered in Beijing on Thursday and boarded a flight to Narita on Sunday. Many of them borrowed money to pay their expenses.

Because ministry officials were not at work on Sunday, the women spent their first night sleeping in the airport arrival lounge and ate breakfasts supplied by airport authorities.

One of the women, Masuyo Onoda, 64, from Yamagata, collapsed shortly before 10 A.M. and was diagnosed as suffering from exhaustion and high blood pressure.

The group's leader, Rie Takegoshi, 71, said they have no money and appealed to Hosokawa and the ministry to respond to their pleas.

"At the very least, we'd like to have a place to live and living expenses," she said.

Several other women who formerly lived in China but have been accepted as Residents looked after the women at the airport after their arrival.

Officials from the ministry arrived at the airport to interview the women at around 11 A.M.

The women are among an estimated 1,899 Japanese women who were over 13 at the end of the war and have identified relatives in Japan, but missed the opportunity to return when they married Chinese men.

The ministry classified women who were aged over 13 years at the end of the war as "orphans" or spouses depending on a range of criteria, including whether or not they were able to recall their Japanese names.

Masayoshi Takemura, director general of the Health and Welfare Ministry Secretariat, told a press conference Monday morning that the ministry will respond in "an appropriate way" to the problem.

Asked what he meant by "appropriate way," Takemura raised the possibility the women could be housed provisionally in quarters in Tokorozawa with returned war-displaced Japanese from China.

Takemura said that if the women had contacted the ministry before their arrival, the ministry could have prepared volunteer workers and accommodation for them in public housing.

Immigration officials at Narita said that since all the women held Japanese passports, they did not infringe immigration regulations by entering the country.

The officials said they would be obliged to adopt the same procedure if more Japanese women from China decide to return home under similar circumstances.

Yamahana Proposes 'Sincere Action of Compensation'

OW0509135093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1311 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 5 KYODO—Japan's Social Democratic Party Chairman Sadao Yamahana proposed Sunday [5 September] taking "sincere action of compensation" for victims of Japan's wartime aggression.

Yamahana said, "as assailant and 36-year colonial ruler of the Korean peninsula, Japan must apologize (to Koreans) for giving pain and sorrow through waging a war of aggression."

Among the war victims are Asian women, mostly Korean, who were recruited as "comfort women" to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during World War II.

The Japanese Government has gone on record by saying that war reparations have been settled through government-level agreements. But many individuals have filed lawsuits with Japanese courts seeking compensation.

Yamahana, who is the state minister in charge of political reform in the coalition cabinet of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, was speaking at a meeting of South Korean alumni of his alma mater, Chuo University in Tokyo.

"Concerning its war responsibilities, Japan is required first to conduct research and give a full accounting, secondly to pass a Diet resolution on apology and remorse, and thirdly to take sincere action of compensation," he said.

Yamahana did not give any specifics about the "sincere action of compensation," but said Japan must seriously consider measures understandable for both the peoples of Japan and South Korea.

Yamahana, who is on a three-day visit through Monday, offered remorse for giving the impression that his party had long maintained a pro-Pyongyang attitude.

The SDP leader also said his party will not help the Korean peninsula cement its division but will help the Koreans promote national reconciliation and peaceful reunification.

The SDP will make efforts to establish a balanced relationship of friendship with both North and South Korea, he said.

Yamahana arrived in Seoul on Saturday as a guest of South Korea's majority Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), becoming the first incumbent SDP leader ever to pay an official visit to South Korea. While in Seoul, Yamahana is scheduled to meet with South Korean President and DLP leader Kim Yong-sam.

Hosokawa Reaffirms Plan To Meet Kim Yong-sam

OW0709112593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1105 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Tuesday [7 September] expressed hopes to meet with South Korean President Kim Yong-sam during a November meeting in Seattle by leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, government officials said.

Hosokawa expressed his intention during a visit at his official residence by Pak Yung-hak, head of the (South) Korea-Japan Economic Association. But Hosokawa failed to commit himself with an invitation by Pak to visit South Korea before November, citing a busy domestic schedule in pushing through with legislation on political reform, the officials said.

"It is a difficult time to leave Japan because of the domestic agenda, but I would like to visit South Korea at the earliest opportunity," he was quoted as saying. Pak sought to bring forward the timing of the summit with Kim, saying, "Frank talks will lead to building a friendly Japan-South Korean relationship."

In Seoul on Monday, President Kim told Japan's Social Democratic Party chairman and State Minister Sadao Yamahana that South Korea wants to bolster cooperation with Japan in dealing with such pressing problems as North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development program.

Tokyo, Seoul Agree To Hold Talks on Fishing

OW0109130893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1225 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 1 KYODO—Japan and South Korea have agreed to hold talks on how to regulate fishing for bluefin tuna by flag-of-convenience vessels, Japanese Fisheries Agency officials said Wednesday [1 September].

The agreement came against the backdrop of the likeli-Hood of the signing of an international treaty aimed at curbing fishing by flag-of-convenience vessels on the high seas, they said.

During the talks, Japan will ask South Korea to impose a ban on bluefin tuna fishing by flag-of-convenience vessels prior to the signing of the new treaty, they said.

Bluefin tuna fishing in the Atlantic is now restricted by the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), consisting of 22 nations, including Japan and South Korea.

But fishing firms in ICCAT member nations, especially South Korea and Taiwan, reportedly register their boats in Honduras, Panama and other non-member nations to thwart the ICCAT restrictions.

Considered top tuna for sushi, Japan imports a large amount of bluefin tuna caught by such flag-of-convenience vessels from Panama and Honduras, making Japanese officials worried that Japan may come under fire under the new international treaty.

Israel Asks Aid From Tokyo for PLO Self-Rule

OW0809115593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1148 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 8 KYODO—Israel called on Japan Wednesday [8 September] to provide financial aid to establish Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Israel made the request in working-level talks with Japan, the officials said. Israel, however, did not specify the amount of the aid, they said.

The officials quoted Israeli Ambassador to Japan 'Amos Ganor as saying northern Europe has pledged 140 million dollars and that the European Community (EC) and the World Bank are also said to be considering assistance. Ganor was quoted as saying he expects aid from the United States, the EC, Saudi Arabia and Japan.

On the ongoing Middle East peace process, Ganor said Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) are currently holding tough negotiations on mutual recognition.

Ganor told the meeting it is tough because the PLO's renouncement of terrorism, its acknowledgement of Israel's right to exist and its security means that it has to change over 20 passages of the Palestine National Charter, the official said.

If the PLO cannot promise to change those passages, the signing of an accord will be done by Israeli and Palestinian delegates, he was quoted as saying.

Also in the working-level meeting, Japan and Israel discussed technical cooperation and cultural exchanges, the officials said.

On Thursday, the two countries will discuss bilateral economic relations and cooperation on science and technology, they said.

Emperor Akihito Comments on Trip to Europe

BR0809143593 Brussels LA LIBRE BELGIQUE in French 8 Sep 93 p 2

[Interview with Emperor Akihito, by Thierry Bouckaert, in Tokyo; date not given: "Belgium Welcomes Emperor Akihito—'I Am Coming to Europe To Foster Understanding Between Our Two Nations'"; first two paragraphs are LA LIBRE BELGIQUE introduction]

[Text] Unlike the Belgian king, the emperor of Japan does answer journalists' questions. Not any question, of course: Written questions must be sent in advance, and answers are given in written form as well. Thus, at a "news conference" granted to journalists the day before they left for Europe, the imperial couple rebuked a German journalist who asked an "unexpected" question. The empress was especially stern: "Since the emperor chose to answer your unexpected question, it would be wrong for me not to answer it too, but know that news conferences are extremely rare opportunities for us to communicate with our people." Case closed.

Such were the circumstances in which Emperor Akihito granted an interview to a few European journalists. Here are the main highlights.

[Question] This will be your first visit to Europe since you acceded to the throne. What are your objectives?

[Akihito] Closer contacts between peoples will foster mutual understanding and trust, and will lead to durable, friendly relations between nations. This is my goal. If, through my meetings with the heads of the Italian, Belgian, and German states, with the pope or with the president of the European Commission, this visit contributes to closer, friendly relations between our countries, I will be sincerely happy.

[Question] How does it feel to be going to Germany and Italy, two countries which were Japan's allies during World War II and which also had to face defeat and reconstruction?

[Akihito] Italy and Germany faced the same difficulties as we did during and after the war. It is important for Japan, together with these countries, to reflect on the past so as to draw as many lessons as possible in view of the future and to try to work toward building a better international community, in cooperation with other countries worldwide.

[Question] How do you view relations between Belgium and Japan?

[Akihito] They have always been good, ever since our two countries began having trade relations. Economic links have grown a lot over the last few years. King Albert II was instrumental in this evolution, as he was the president of a great many economic missions to Japan when he was still Prince of Liege. On the other hand, the headquarters of the European Community are located in Brussels: More and more Japanese are visiting the city and living there, and I believe fruitful relations will keep growing.

I came to Belgium for the first time exactly 40 years ago. I had the honor of meeting King Baudouin. After 40 years of friendship, it was with deep sorrow and grief that we saw him for the last time. King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola were always most cordial and sincerely friendly toward us.

[Question] What is a typical day in the life of the emperor and empress of Japan?

[Akihito] Our constitutions or traditions are not the same, but what the king and the queen do is no different from what we do, as we share a determination to act in the interest of our respective countries and peoples. My formal duties include promulgating legislation and ministerial orders, approving the appointment of state ministers, and welcoming foreign guests. We attend ceremonies or events such as the National Tree Day and the National Sports Festival. We take advantage of such occasions to visit local infrastructures dedicated to community welfare as well as cultural and industrial ones.

We recently went to Hokkaido to visit the victims of an earthquake. We attended the funeral of King Baudouin. I presided over the appointment process of the new prime minister and his cabinet. We also made preparations in view of our trip to Europe.

Foreign Finance Officials Invited for Seminar

OW0109070693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0617 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 1 KYODO—The Finance Ministry has invited 20 foreign finance officials for a three-month seminar in Tokyo to learn about the Japanese fiscal and monetary system, officials said Wednesday [1 September]. The seminar, the second of its kind following one last year, will begin Friday and run until December 10, and be attended by economists from 17 countries.

Lectures will be conducted in English, while there will be discussions divided into small working groups specializing in macroeconomics, fiscal policy, monetary policy, and international finance, the officials said.

Finance Ministry officials, private economists, university professors and retired ministry officials will give the lectures and lead discussions, they said.

Attending the seminar are government finance and central bank officials from Bangladesh, China, Hungary, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Thailand, Turkey, Britain, the United States, and Vietnam.

Five young Japanese Finance Ministry bureaucrats will also join the program, which is cosponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Hata Urges Forming Two Major Political Forces

OW0109121393 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 30 Aug 93

["Comments" by Foreigner Minister and Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] leader Tsutomu Hata in Hakonemachi, Kanagawa Prefecture on 30 August; introduced by unidentified announcer; from the "NHK News 7" program—recorded]

[Text] Speaking at the Shinseito party meeting, Hata said the coalition government would do its best to carry out political reform. He then commented on future political reorganization.

[Begin Hata recording] The prime minister is saying he would prefer a system in which several parties formed a loose coalition. What we have to do in the future is very difficult. We think it is necessary to have a system in which there are as few parties as possible competing for power. We are not calling for a system with only two parties, but rather a system based on two major parties. [end Hata recording]

Mitsuzuka, Eda on Plans for Political Reform

OW0809131093

[Editorial Report] Tokyo FNN Television Network in Japanese at 2230 GMT on 4 September during its weekly "News 2001" program carries a live 32-minute interview with Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, head of the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) Political Reform Headquarters, via a satellite hookup from Sendai; a live 15-minute interview with Satsuki Eda, head of the United Social Democratic Party (USDP) cum director general of the Science and Technology Agency; and brief remarks by Shokei Arai, a junior LDP member, via a satellite hookup from a hotel room in Tokyo. The program is moderated by newscasters Yuji Kuroiwa and Kaori Matsuyama and is attended by its regular guests Kenichi Takemura, a freelance commentator, and Yoshiaki Kobayashi, a professor at Keio University.

The program begins at 2232 GMT with brief comments by Takemura and Kobayashi on the current situation in political reform.

At 2237 GMT Mitsuzuka, who is in Sendai, appears via satellite hookup. Asked whether the LDP is resolved to carry out political reform, he insists the party is firmly determined to carry it out. He refers to the results of the July general election as a "judgment passed on the LDP by the people who asked the party to carry out political reform and regain the people's trust." He adds: "Although it was generally believed the LDP would suffer a major defeat in the general election, the party was able to maintain the nearly 230 seats it held before the election. I took this as a sign of encouragement from the people."

Commentator Takemura interrupts Mitsuzuka by pointing out that although the LDP may have won a considerable number of seats, the party still fell from power; this is what prompted its resolve to carry out political reform. Mitsuzuka admits this, but also mentions that as a responsible opposition party the LDP has presented a counterproposal on political reform.

At 2240 GMT Kuroiwa asks Mitsuzuka to explain why the LDP was able this time to draw its own political reform plan without much difficulty. He points out that in the past Mitsuzuka had appeared several times on this same FNN program, each time expressing his determination to carry out political reform, only to find the plans crushed each time by LDP members known as the "YKK" trio (Taku Yamazaki, former construction minister; Koichi Kato, former acting LDP secretary general; and Junichiro Koizumi, former minister of Posts and Telecommunications). Mitsuzuka says he has been able to convince these members because they have also taken the results of the last general election very seriously.

At 2242 GMT Professor Kobayashi raises the question of political donations, asking Mitsuzuka to explain the LDP plan which calls for a 30-billion-yen government subsidy, while noting the coalition plan calls for a 60-billion-yen subsidy. Mitsuzuka states the LDP has calculated 90 billion yen would be needed for political funds, but adds: "We must watch for the possibility of the government meddling in politics by means of such subsidies. We feel one-third of the total should be the maximum amount for government subsidies. The other two-thirds should come in the form of private and corporate donations."

Concerning the coalition parties' plan, Mitsuzuka says he does not know how their figures were arrived at, but adds that Hirotaka Akamatsu, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ), supposedly had no choice but to agree to the plan because Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), urged other coalition party secretaries general to call for a 60-billion-yen subsidy, although Ozawa said the total amount really needed was 100 billion yen. Mitsuzuka says the coalition group should explain their number to the people.

Discussion continues on the issue of political funds, including government subsidies and corporate donations. Kuroiwa refers to the decision made by the Federation of Economic Organizations of Japan (Keidanren) to stop acting as a conduit for political donations from its member companies, and to the intention to abolish corporate donations altogether in the future. Mitsuzuka says both the LDP and coalition parties still accept corporate donations.

At 2250 GMT Professor Kobayashi raises a question about election system reform. He asks Mitsuzuka why the LDP suddenly decided to support the one-voter-one-vote system even though it has been widely expected the party would opt for the one-voter-two-votes system. Mitsuzuka notes his party also proposes electing 300 from the single-seat constituency system and 171 from the proportional representation system as opposed to the coalition proposal to elect 250 each from the two systems. He says both the one-voter-one-vote system and the seat distribution plan proposed by the LDP would be preferable for the political stability of Japan. He denies the allegation that this LDP move is intended to disrupt unity in the coalition in view of the fact that the coalition parties' views on the issue are split—Shinseito advocates the one-voter-one-vote system, while other coalition parties favor the one-voter-two-votes system.

At 2255 GMT Shokei Arai, an LDP junior Diet member, is asked to give his views. Speaking from a hotel room in Tokyo via remote hookup, he expresses his opposition to the one- voter-one-vote system, saying: "The party chose to support the one-voter-one-vote system for its own interests and as a strategy against the coalition, not in the interests of the people or because of a political ideal."

Mitsuzuka insists both systems were considered, but the one-voter-one-vote system was chosen because the party decided it would help promote the political stability of Japan.

At 2301 GMT Kuroiwa asks Mitsuzuka whether the LDP is willing to compromise with the coalition, noting Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has indicated his willingness to make concessions on his part. Mitsuzuka says the LDP is also prepared to make concessions, stating: "If the coalition presents a rational plan and puts it to full debate in the Diet, we will compromise where necessary." He also points out that if the LDP refuses to compromise, political reform will be delayed unnecessarily; this should be avoided. Kuroiwa suggests that since so much time has been spent on debating the issue, the LDP—as a responsible opposition party—should take drastic action to successfully conclude the issue at the outset of the upcoming Diet session.

Mitsuzuka insists the people still do not fully understand the proposed electoral systems. He notes the need for the people to have a better understanding of them, saying political reform is done for the people rather than for politicians. He adds: "Since Prime Minister Hosokawa has vowed to carry out political reform within the year, we plan to give our fullest cooperation toward that goal." Mitsuzuka also charges there are dangerous moves even among the mass media to block the planned reform efforts, denouncing such moves by saying: "What is correct must be done properly and with certainty."

At 2304 GMT Kuroiwa asks Mitsuzuka whether he has any recommendations to make to the Hosokawa cabinet. Mitsuzuka complains about Komeito—a party supported by Sokagakkai, a Buddhist group—and says a clear line should be drawn between politics and religion. Kuroiwa asks Mitsuzuka whether there may be a further splitting of the LDP since there seems to be differing views among party members on such issues as the election system. Mitsuzuka refutes the possibility, pointing out that even though there may be differing views on some issues, LDP members hold similar political ideals. He insists the role of the LDP as a responsible opposition party will also help keep the party together.

At 2309 GMT Matsuyama asks Mitsuzuka if he can reaffirm the LDP's intention to cooperate in implementing political reform. Mitsuzuka says this will be done, noting the LDP must now strive to regain the people's confidence so it can return to power.

The interview with USDP leader Eda begins at 2310 GMT. Asked how he feels about the coalition parties' plan for a 60-billion-yen-per-annum government subsidy in political funds, Eda explains: "Since an agreement on it was made among the coalition parties after much debate, the cabinet has decided to respect this decision. However, it is likely there will be more debate as to the basis for this figure—particularly from the people's view—since the amount is double the amount that was initially considered." Discussion on this issue continues.

At 2315 GMT Kuroiwa asks Eda why the abolishment of corporate donations was not included in the currently proposed reform plans. While noting he himself is in favor of completely abolishing corporate donations, Eda states: "A sudden change cannot be made just as a fast moving car cannot suddenly be stopped. It appears this will have to be reviewed and revised in the course of the next five years." Takemura points out the danger of the government's gaining control over politics when it comes to provide subsidies to political parties, while admitting the problem of the Japanese people are not used to giving out individual political donations.

He asks Eda how political funds can be raised if corporate donations are outlawed. Eda says politics should be run by the people, and hence the people rather than corporations should make donations. He asserts that while corporations are social entities and their existence is important for society, they should not be considered as equal to the people. Eda says it will take time to change the people's attitude towards donations, and contends this is the reason for tolerating corporate donations for the time being and for reviewing the matter in the course of the next five years.

Okinawa Television stops its relay of this FNN Sunday special program at 2326 GMT, and the interview with Eda is suddenly broken off.

Hosokawa Cabinet Enjoys 79 Percent Approval Rate

OW0809041493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0300 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 8 KYODO—The one-month-old coalition cabinet of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is Japan's most popular postwar government with an approval rating of 79.0 percent, according to results of a KYODO NEWS SERVICE poll released Wednesday [8 September].

The poll also showed 39.0 percent of the supporters expect the cabinet will achieve its goal of political reform—reform of the election system and of controls on political funding aimed at preventing political corruption.

Those who did not support the cabinet came to 13.4 percent.

The Hosokawa cabinet's record popular support rate is well above the 63.0 percent registered by the cabinet of then Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in June 1990. By contrast, the cabinet of then Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa had a rating of only 21.9 percent last May.

KYODO NEWS SERVICE conducted the survey on Saturday and Sunday, polling 3,000 voters aged 20 or over who were selected at random at 250 points across Japan.

A total of 2,002 people, or 66.7 percent, responded and the pollsters interviewed them directly. Men accounted for 46.9 percent of the respondents, and women 53.1 percent.

Of the Hosokawa cabinet's supporters, 22.1 percent said they trust Hosokawa, and 16.4 percent said they support the cabinet because it is a non-LDP government.

Among those who do not support the cabinet, 44.4 percent were concerned about instability in the seven-party coalition government. The poll showed 13.1 percent of the non-supporters were against the cabinet simply because it is a non-LDP government, while 12.3 percent believe Hosokawa is lacking in leadership.

Those doubting the cabinet can fulfill its repeated pledges to eradicate political corruption came to 11.2 percent.

The poll also found that support for the country's two largest political parties in terms of parliamentary strength, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Social Democratic Party [of japan] (SDP) [SDPJ], has slumped to postwar lows of 24.3 percent and 9.9 percent, down from 38.7 percent and 13.1 percent in May, respectively. This was the first time for the LDP's public support ratio to plunge below the 30 percent line. The LDP was formed in 1955 and ruled the country continuously until this summer.

However, the LDP still remained the most popular single party while Hosokawa's Japan New Party (JNP) was second with a 20.0 percent support rate, up from 11.7 percent in May.

Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), an LDP breakaway, placed third at 14.9 percent. No earlier figure is available for comparison because the party was formed only in late June.

The LDP's previous low was 31.2 percent in June 1989 while then party leader and Prime Minister Sosuke Uno was in office. Uno resigned as prime minister, assuming the responsibility for a major LDP setback in a House of Councillors election. Uno was unpopular particularly because of involvement in a sex scandal at that time.

In the weekend poll, the SDPJ's support rate fell below the 10 percent mark for the first time to register 9.9 percent, down from 13.1 percent in May.

Sakigake (Harbinger), another LDP offshoot party, got 3.7 percent. Sakigake, also founded in late June, is a major ally of Hosokawa's JNP.

The Buddhist-backed Komeito won a 3.9 percent support rate, the Japanese Communist Party 2.1 percent, the Democratic Socialist Party 1.3 percent, and the United Social Democratic Party 0.7 percent.

Komeito Chairman: 1994 General Election 'Unlikely'

OW0809070593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0652 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 8 KYODO—Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida said Wednesday [8 September] a general election for the powerful House of Representatives is unlikely next year because of the need to implement electoral reform. "I don't think the next general election will be held in the immediate future," Ishida said at a press luncheon at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

"I think it is not possible to hold a general poll by the end of next year" because it will take time to redraw electoral zones even if political reform bills aimed at revamping the electoral system to curb widespread political corruption pass through the Diet, he noted.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has staked his political future on getting a set of political reform legislation onto the statute books by year's end.

Ishida, state minister and director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, said another reason for not expecting a general election next year was the need of Hosokawa's coalition government to strive to jack up the nation's sluggish economy.

Touching on the planned relaxation of government regulations, Ishida said the government will review regulations one by one to revitalize the economy and consumption. In an attempt to boost the stagnant economy, Ishida's Management and Coordination Agency announced on August 31 a list of 60 items, compiled by all government ministries and agencies, for potential deregulation.

The government intends to craft a package of economy-spurring measures by mid-September, he said.

Turning to a proposed 5 trillion yen cut in income tax, the Komeito chairman said the plan will be included in a political agenda. He noted, however, that its implementation would require a major political decision.

Ishida said it is necessary to separate discussion of slashing income tax from one of raising the rate of consumption tax, which now stands at 3 percent.

"Suppose we aim for a considerable consumption tax hike, it might be by a few percentage points. So it is actually impossible for us to do it without the full public understanding of such a tax increase," he said.

Ishida also said an electoral system combining single-seat constituencies with proportional representation, the introduction of which has been agreed upon by coalition member parties, is a system that accelerates the reconfiguration of political parties based on a two-party system.

He spoke of the need to create an axis of democratic politics by pulling together coalition member parties.

Komeito, backed by a Buddhist lay organization called Soka Gakkai, is one of the seven parties supporting the Hosokawa administration.

Yamahana Not To Seek SDPJ Chairman Reelection

OW0809074393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0734 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 8 KYODO—Sadao Yamahana, chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the largest political group in the coalition government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, said Wednesday [8 September] he will not seek reelection as SDP chief in mid-September.

Yamahana made clear his intention not to run in the September 18 and 19 election to choose a new SDP chairman at an extraordinary session of the party's central executive committee.

After the meeting, Yamahana told reporters that his best option is to concentrate on realizing political reform in his role as the SDP representative in the cabinet, and to reshuffle party leadership for a rebirth of the SDP. [new paragraph]

After the SDP suffered a crushing setback in the July 18 general election for the House of Representatives, Yamahana offered to resign as party head but on another occasion indicated that he would run in the election to continue serving as the SDP chief. Yamahana, however, told party elders after returning Monday from a three-day trip to South Korea that he will not run in the election, party sources said.

Yamahana, 57, became the chairman of the SDP, then the largest opposition party, in January to replace Makoto Tanabe. Yamahana was instrumental in inaugurating the current seven-party coalition government in early August, in which he serves as a state minister in charge of political reform.

In a related development earlier in the day, SDP vice chairman and acting chairman Wataru Kubo indicated he would run in the contest to choose Yamahana's successor.

SDP members wanting to run in the election must register their candidacy Thursday. If two or more candidates run in the election, about 130,000 full and associate party members across the nation will cast their ballots September 18 and 19.

A majority of party members are likely to throw their support behind Kubo, the sources said. The SDP is scheduled to hold a party convention September 25 to endorse the election results.

Vice Finance Minister Says No Rate, Tax Cuts

OW0609101093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0952 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 6 KYODO—Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito reiterated Monday [6 September] there would be no immediate cuts in the official discount rate or income tax.

Saito said at a regular press meeting that continuing effects of the 13.2 trillion yen pump-priming package launched in April and February's discount rate reduction to its lowest-ever level of 2.5 percent must be awaited.

However, Saito stressed that the discount rate is solely determined by the central bank.

News reports over the weekend said the Bank of Japan is considering reducing the key rate by 0.5 percentage point as early as mid-September.

Asked to comment on earlier remarks by leaders of the ruling parties calling for further fiscal and monetary measures, he said, "our view hasn't changed.... The government's economic measures (to be drafted around September 20) are deregulations and passing benefits from the yen's rise on to consumers."

Ichiro Ozawa, co-leader of coalition member Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), told reporters in the morning the government package should be a comprehensive one that includes tax, fiscal and monetary actions.

Considering the relatively active stance indicated last Friday at a meeting of the government's tax panel for tax cuts as an economic stimulus measure in the next fiscal year, Saito said it did not represent a promise to do so, and he will watch future discussions.

As for the effects of the latest pump-priming package, he said, "it should start moving from around early autumn," with contracts for only 10 percent of projects made in July.

"We will press related ministries and agencies," he said, but ruled out any possibility of mapping out plans to speed up contracting.

On economic conditions, he said the government took into account the effects of unusual summer weather and the yen's sharp rise when deciding to draft the new package, and there would be no new measures in that respect.

Food prices are rising due to the long rainy period and cool summer, but inflation remains otherwise tame, he said.

Job data is expected to worsen because they are lagging indicators of the economy, he said. But job measures are already included in the latest economic measures, and a pickup is likely as the economy recovers.

EPA Diagnosis Says Economy 'at a Standstill'

OW0709010093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0043 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 7 KYODO—The Japanese economy is at a standstill because the recent sharp rise of the yen and the irregular weather combined to block its path to recovery, the government reported Tuesday [7 September]. The economic diagnosis by the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) came only a few months after the agency declared that the drawn-out economic slowdown was almost over.

Agency officials, briefing reporters on the EPA's latest monthly economic report presented to the cabinet on the day, said the agency will not withdraw the official declaration made in June. But they admitted the agency has adjusted its views to take in the reality of unexpected factors such as the doggedly long spell of rainy weather and the cool summer, and their adverse effect on the economy.

"We think that the economy has pulled out from the worst of the current recessionary phase but its move toward recovery is stagnating," an agency official said. The officials said the economic stalemate is evident in slower inventory reduction, particularly of air conditioners, and continuously depressed personal spending.

Stockpiles of unsold goods increased 1.1 percent in July from the previous month after growing 0.6 percent each in May and June, according to the data published by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

The fatter inventories have reined in increases in production, causing July output at factories and mines to fall 0.3 percent from June.

"Inventory reduction had almost been completed. But in recent days, the trend has been retreating a bit," the official said.

On the consumption front, sales of summer clothes and other seasonal goods fared poorly due to the unusual weather, which is partly behind the record 17th month of straight year-on-year declines posted in July for department store sales.

Corporations, too, continued to keep their purse strings tight, with their planned capital spending for the current and next fiscal years more conservative by far than in previous years.

Jobs prospects also are bleak as the ratio of job offers to seekers continued to fall, to 0.72 in July. The figure means that there are only 72 jobs for 100 prospective workers.

The only bright spot in the EPA report was the public works sector, aided by the government's economic stimulus programs, and the housing industry, which has benefited from falling interest rates.

Nikkeiren Chief Urges Cut in Discount Rate

OW0809061893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0527 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Morioka, Sept. 8 KYODO—Japan's business world wants the Bank of Japan to cut its official discount rate by 1 percentage point as early as possible, the head of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren) said Wednesday [8 September].

Takeshi Nagano, president of Nikkeiren, told reporters that the current economic situation is "very severe," with both personal consumption and corporate capital investment virtually frozen. "Unfortunately, I see no bright sign," he said.

A cut in the official discount rate is necessary to beef up the economy, Nagano said. The rate now stands at a record low 2.5 percent per annum.

A reduction in income tax is another priority, he said.

Nagano was in Morioka to attend a meeting of businessmen in the Tohoku area in northern Japan.

Asked about his projection for annual wage hike negotiations between employers and workers next spring, Nagano said employers may have many things to cope with, such as calling for a rate cut and taking measures against the yen's appreciation, before considering how much they can raise wages for employees. This does not mean, however, that he favors a recently talked- about idea of cutting wages, Nagano said.

Some Japanese employers are reported to have called for lower wages next year in order to survive the business recession.

Public Works Spending Package Detailed

OW0809133093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1320 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 8 KYODO—The government will spend 1 trillion yen on victims of natural disasters as part of a public works spending package centering on economic pump-priming, government sources said Wednesday [8 September]. Prime Minister Morihiro

Hosokawa's coalition government will issue construction bonds to finance the additional spending, the sources said.

The comprehensive stimulus package, to be compiled later this month, is aimed at salvaging the faltering economy which was hit hard by the strong yen and cool and rainy weather this summer. The package comes after Japan's largest-ever package of measures which was unveiled in April by then Premier Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet.

The new package will be combined with an expected cut in the official discount rate by the Bank of Japan in an attempt to prevent the economy from declining further, they said.

Expansion of soft loans by the governmental Housing Loans Corp., housing-related tax breaks, and enlargement of labor adjustment subsidies are also included in the proposed package, the sources said. But whether there will be an income tax reduction is still under study among cabinet members, the sources added.

Takemura: Tokyo Considering More Pump-Priming

OW0809053693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0521 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 8 KYODO—The government will come up with a second supplementary budget and other additional pump-priming measures to stimulate the stagnating Japanese economy, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura Indicated Wednesday [8 September]. The government is already working out economic stimulation measures based on plans for wide-ranging economic deregulation and for passing on the benefits of the yen's appreciation to consumers.

Takemura told reporters after a cabinet meeting that the government will consider additional measures to boost the slow-moving economy, which has been hit by a sharp rise of the yen and unseasonably cool and wet summer weather.

The government will work out the extra measures after studying official economic indicators to be released soon, informed sources said.

The measures are also expected to include more public works spending, centering on reconstruction work in disaster-hit areas, tax breaks for home buyers and more flexible monetary policies, the sources said.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said later Wednesday his government is considering economic stimulation measures from all conceivable angles.

Hosokawa, speaking at a meeting with the speakers of the nation's metropolitan and prefectural assemblies, also said short-, medium- and long-term measures are needed to stimulate the Japanese economy, which he said faces "serious difficulties."

Finance Minister Hints at New Stimulus Measures

OW0809091993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0908 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 8 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii indicated Wednesday [8 September] the government may consider adopting additional fiscal and monetary measures together with an already-promised economic package. "We will have to deal with (economic) conditions after looking at indicators," Fujii told a regular press meeting, referring to earlier remarks by Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura.

Takemura told reporters the government is considering forming a second supplementary budget to finance additional stimulus measures.

Fujii said that those closely watched indicators are the Bank of Japan's "Tankan" quarterly business sentiment survey, due out Friday [10 September], and the April-June Gross National Product, due later this month.

Considering the timing, Fujii said, "it should be at the same time" as the economic package already promised by the government to be drafted by the middle of this month. The package is focused on deregulations and returning to consumers some benefits from the yen's recent sharp rise.

Meanwhile, Fujii reiterated his strong opposition to an income tax cut, saying that "no deficit-covering bonds" should be issued to fund the tax reduction.

On cuts in housing and other taxes being discussed by the ruling coalition parties, Fujii said various suggestions are being made but there still appears to be no consensus.

Fiscal measures led by tax cuts will bring no "quick fix" to the flagging economy but they will likely have the effect of pscychologically brightening the business outlook, Fujii said.

Commenting on Hosokawa's remarks Tuesday that the economy could "go backward," Fujii said the premier later explained to reporters it was his style of describing the weak state of the economy and did not mean a "double-dip recession."

Call for Lower Petroleum Product Prices Studied

OW0809061293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0545 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 8 KYODO—The Agency of Natural Resources and Energy is considering asking oil companies to lower prices as a way of passing on to consumers some of their windfalls from the yen's appreciation, agency officials said Wednesday [8 September].

The agency, affiliated with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), is expected to call for cuts in the prices of gasoline, kerosene and gas oil after a cut in electric power and gas charges is decided in the middle of this month, the officials said.

The government will incorporate the move into an additional pump-priming package as a part of measures to pass on the unexpected profits from the yen's rise against the dollar on foreign exchange markets, they said.

Oil wholesalers revise prices for their mainstay products monthly in light of every month's exchange rates, industry sources said. Wholesale prices for gasoline have fallen by 2.50 yen per liter from January through August, the sources said.

Meanwhile, prices at leading retailers nationwide currently stand at 123 yen per liter, down less than 2 yen on average from January. Therefore, the agency hopes for another 1 yen cut in the retail price of gasoline, which means that a family owing a passenger car can save 1,100 yen a year, the officials said.

Major Firms: Business Situation Deteriorating

OW0809103393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0958 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 8 KYODO—More than one in three major companies in Japan has reported a deterioration in their business situation, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said in a survey released Wednesday [8 September].

The 13th quarterly survey, conducted August 20, showed 35 percent of the 147 leading firms polled reported worse business conditions, up 16 percentage points from 19 percent reported in the previous survey done three months earlier.

MITI officials said corporate confidence has retreated again due to the yen's further rise against the dollar, the cool summer and an unusual high number of rainy days, despite gradually brighter prospects reported in the February and May surveys.

Considering that 48 percent answering no change said their bad business situation has continued, more than 80 percent of the big corporations have suffered bad or deteriorated conditions, the officials said.

Regarding the coming six months, 24 percent predict further deterioration in their business, compared with 10 percent three months earlier, while 29 percent expect things to pick up, down 19 points from the previous 48 percent, the survey showed.

The number of major companies expecting a better economic situation in Japan plunged—34 percent from the previous 71 percent, it said.

Only 26 percent expect their production to increase in six months, down from 49 percent in the previous survey, while 19 percent predict a drop in output, up eight points.

Nineteen percent forecast their shipments will decrease in six months, compared with 9 percent in the previous survey, while 30 percent expect an increase, down from the previous 48 percent.

More than 40 percent of the major firms feel their inventory levels are high. Seventy percent reported a deterioration in their profits as of August from a year earlier, more than the 64 percent recorded three months before. Nearly 80 percent revised downward their planned capital spending in fiscal 1993, which ends next March, citing poor demand both at home and abroad and excessive production capacity. More than 60 percent feel their labor force is excessive.

Asked about effects of the yen's appreciation, more than half answered their profits have decreased, while only 10 percent welcomed a stronger yen, down from the previous 19 percent. Some companies, who previously avoided adverse effects by risk-hedging tools, began suffering bad impact of the yen's further gains, partly due to sluggish export businesses, the MITI officials said.

The dollar was quoted at 104.45 yen August 20, compared with 110.40 yen May 20.

Firms Said Cutting Overtime To Cope With Slump

OW0809094393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0940 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 8 KYODO—About 60 percent of Japanese companies have cut overtime or taken other steps to cut their payroll bills to cope with the economic slump, a government survey showed Wednesday [8 September]. The measures include transferring workers to different jobs or subsidiaries, and curbing recruitment of older workers, the Labor Ministry said.

The survey, conducted in late August through public employment offices nationwide, showed 59.9 percent of about 1,000 companies surveyed were taking such measures. The figure rose to 62.5 percent in the manufacturing sector.

It was 88.6 percent for the steel industry, 78.0 percent for the precision machinery industry, 76.2 percent for the automobile industry and 68.8 percent for the electronics industry. Ministry officials said the survey showed that the prolonged economic slowdown is seriously affecting the employment situation.

They said 44.9 percent of the companies responding had cut overtime, 37.0 percent had stopped or reduced hirings of older workers, and 21.6 percent transferred people to different jobs.

Record Drop in Construction Contracts Reported

OW0109091393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0813 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 1 KYODO—Construction contracts received by major general contractors registered a record year-to-year fall in July, dropping 34.5 percent to 1,183.4 billion yen, an industry organization reported Wednesday [1 September].

The Japan Federation of Construction Contractors said the fall was the largest since 1976 when it began a survey on contracts won by its 57 member firms.

The federation said private-sector orders plunged 37.4 percent due to a decrease in construction of buildings and factories as a result of the economic slump.

Public-sector contracts also plummeted 29.7 percent, the largest fall on record, the federation said.

It said the sharp decrease in public-sector contracts was in reaction to major public works projects contracted last year. It may also be attributable to postponement of public works projects in the wake of payoff scandals involving major general contractors, the federation said.

Two Accused of Bribe to Ibaraki Governor

OW0609121393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1143 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 6 KYODO—Two leading construction companies allegedly gave 10 million yen each to former Ibaraki Governor Fujio Takeuchi in exchange for his influence in their selection for prefectural public works projects, sources said Monday [6 September]. Shimizu Corp. and Tobishima Corp. allegedly gave the money—which went unreported to authorities—to Takeuchi in 1991 and 1992 seeking his preference for their respective bids to build a 70 billion yen prefectural government building and a 38 billion yen dam, the sources said.

Takeuchi, 75, was indicted August 12 on a charge of taking 55 million yen in bribes from another major contractor, Hazama Corp.

There are signs the Tokyo district public prosecutors office is investigating the alleged payments by Tobishima and Shimizu, the sources said. Both companies have denied making the payments.

The sources said executives of Shimizu, the nation's largest contractor, allegedly gave Takeuchi 10 million yen in seeking to win the bid for the government building in a Mito suburb.

Tobishima allegedly sought to curry Takeuchi's favor with payment in trying to secure its participation in the dam project.

Shimizu was selected for the building project along with Hazama and Taisei Corp., while two other bidders—Toda Corp. and Takenaka Doboku Co.—were excluded.

A Shimizu Corp. spokesman denied the allegations when contacted by KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

In the Koyama Dam project, Tobishima and Kajima Corp. were informally awarded the tender on Takeuchi's orders, while Taisei Corp. was left out, the sources said.

A Tobishima Corp. spokesman told KYODO, "We probed allegations we handed over 10 million yen in 1991 and found they were not factual."

Takeuchi reportedly told investigators he turned down an offer of 100 million yen from a Taisei official, who told him the firm "would give 100 million yen if named leader of a joint venture" to build the government building.

Also Monday, Yokohama Mayor Hidenobu Takahide denied any knowledge of 200 million yen allegedly paid by contractors to an organization of his de facto chief election campaigner at the time of his 1990 election.

"I do not know about support groups' funds except for those reported to the (city's) election management board, as I was in a hurry due to my sudden decision to run for the office," he said at a regular news conference.

Reports alleged about 30 contractors paid a combined 200 million yen to an organization of former Construction Minister Hikosaburo Okonogi, who acted as his chief campaigner for the election.

Okonogi, now deceased, managed Takahide's campaign when he was heading the Liberal Democratic Party's Kanagawa prefectural chapter. Asked about alleged political donations from leading contractors after his election, Takahide said, "I have neither received such funds nor been asked (to provide preferential treatment for the contractors)."

He said he "was not aware" of the reported bid-rigging on a city government project to extend the tracks of a subway line.

He pledged that the city government would investigate all the contractors to uncover the truth about the alleged bid-rigging.

MOC Plans To Introduce Open Bidding System

OW0809061493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0542 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 8 KYODO—The Construction Ministry [MOC] decided Wednesday [8 September] to introduce an experimental open bidding system on large-scale public works projects to make bidding procedures more transparent, ministry officials said. The new system is designed to enable the nation's 30 leading contractors to bid on construction projects with the cost of 1 billion yen or more under the direct control of the ministry, the officials said.

The ministry will start preparing the new bidding system on 13 projects being planned by its eight regional bureaus this month. They plan to hold their tenders next month.

The decision was explained at a meeting of the central council on construction contracting business, an advisory body to the construction minister.

Although there are some restrictions, the new public tender system is the first government move to open the bidding system in principle to any contractor, replacing the present system under which only nominated companies can tender bids.

The ministry started the study on the new bidding system in July following mounting criticism of present opaque nomination standards widely believed to have caused a series of corruption cases involving the construction industry.

The advisory body was asked to make an interim report on concrete plans to improve the bidding system by the end of this year. However, the ministry decided to introduce the new system in advance of the council's report to show people the new coalition government's determination to improve the system, the officials said.

By holding the experimental tenders, the ministry plans to check if there are any problems on the quality of construction works and if there is any instances of monopoly by leading companies. After analyzing the experiments, the ministry plans to inaugurate the public tender system on a full-scale basis in fiscal 1994 starting next April, they said.

Plan Welcomed at News Conference

OW0809131993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1305 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 8 KYODO—Construction Minister Kozo Igarashi said Wednesday [8 September] his ministry has decided to seek tenders for 13 public works by the end of this year from about 30 major construction companies, much more than usual. Igarashi told a news conference the ministry will try this approach as a possible alternative to the current bidding system.

The ministry and local governments usually select several companies beforehand that can bid for a public works contract.

Taira Shibata, head of the Japan Civil Engineering Constructors' Association Inc., welcomed the plan at an press conference, saying it would reduce the chances of bid-rigging.

The ministry will start the process in October for a building of an elevated highway in Shizuoka, central Japan, Igarashi said.

The 13 projects to be carried out throughout Japan are worth more than 1 billion yen each, he said. The 30 companies qualified to bid for the projects have an "A" ranking from the ministry, meaning they are eligible for construction works worth 500 million yen or more, he said.

No foreign companies have an "A" ranking, partly because they have little experience in Japan.

The ministry began reviewing the bidding system in July in response to domestic and international criticism over alleged unclearness and unfairness in selecting firms allowed to a bid.

If the experiment succeeds, the ministry will launch a new system change in the fiscal year beginning in April 1994, Igarashi said. He said the ministry will have its committee hold further discussions on the issue to solve problems that may develop.

North Korea

Atomic Energy Spokesman on Talks With IAEA

SK0809102993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 8 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the DPRK Ministry of Atomic Energy, speaking in reply to a question put by KCNA today regarding the negotiation held some time ago between the delegations of the DPRK and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said:

Negotiation was held between delegations of our country and the IAEA in Pyongyang from September 1 to 3 according to an agreement reached at the Geneva DPRK-U.S. talks.

At the negotiation the debate was focused on the partiality of the IAEA and other issues were also dealt with.

We raised the partiality of the IAEA and its unjust behavior against us as the main topic for discussion.

The IAEA delegation expressed some understanding as regards its partiality, but insisted on the resumption of ad hoc inspection.

We said that the inspection problem would be resolved automatically when the question of the agency's partiality is solved.

At the negotiation the IAEA side expressed its hope to resume the negotiation with us within two months.

In this regard, we told it that there is no change in our stand to continue the negotiation with it.

We are ready to continue negotiation.

Premier: N-S Talks Depend on South Attitude

SK0809104593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 8 (KCNA)—It depends wholly upon the attitude of the South side whether or not dialogue is resumed in our country, an atmosphere of reconciliation and detente created and all the pending problems including the nuclear issue smoothly solved, said premier Kang Song-san in his report at a national meeting held here today to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the national day.

It is unreasonable for the South side to hold dialogue with the North on denuclearisation amid a nuclear war game to attack the North, its dialogue partner, while proposing to have dialogue over the "nuclear problem", he said, and continued:

To talk about an "international mutual assistance system" while saying that they intend to solve the nuclear problem with fellow countrymen is a contradictory act incompatible with North-South dialogue and a negative act toward the ongoing DPRK-USA talks.

It is fortunate that the South side, though belatedly, understood the real meaning of our proposal for the exchange of special envoys and expressed response to it three months after we made it. The South side must no more try to fool the dialogue partner nor disappoint the people at home and abroad who desire peace in our country and its peaceful reunification with conflicting words and deeds. To this end, they must make a bold decision to clearly manifest their attitude toward our principled demand.

They must renounce their sinister purpose and wrong attitidue and accept our 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation. And they must scrap the "national security law" which impedes national unity and reunification, dissolve the "security planning board", stop suppressing the patriotic students and people who come out for independence, democracy and reunification and release all those who have been arrested on unwarrantable charges including the "political prisoners".

UNICEF Signs Cooperation Working Plan

SK0809002193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1520 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 7 (KCNA)—The third-term 1994- 1998 working plan of cooperation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was signed here Monday [6 September].

Present at the signing ceremony on the Korean side were Song Won- ho, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs and chairman of the Coordinating Committee of the United Nations Children's Fund of the DPRK, and officials concerned and on the opposite side were the members of the UNICEF delegation headed by Sarojini Vittachi, director of the UNICEF area office for the DPRK, staying in Korea, and G. Faruq Achikzad, resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme.

According to the plan, Korea and the UNICEF will conduct cooperation in the field of children's health and education in the 1994-1998 period.

Leaders Receive Departing Algerian Ambassador

SK0709103193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 7 (KCNA)—Vice President Pak Song-chol, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Choe Tae-pok Tuesday separately met and had a talk with Mokhtar Reguieg, Algerian Ambassador to Korea, when he paid a farewell call on them.

Kim Yong-nam Meets Kuwaiti Ambassador to China

SK0409042493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 4 (KCNA)—Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam Friday met and had a friendly talk with Kuwaiti Ambassador to China Ghazi Muhammad Amin al-Rayyis.

Cables Peruvian Counterpart

SK0409042593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0410 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 4 (KCNA)—Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam sent a message of greetings to Efrain Goldenberg Schereiber upon his appointment as foreign minister of the Republic of Peru.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would continue developing favorably, the message wished him big success in his responsible work.

Choe Tae-pok Meets New Palestinian Ambassador

SK0809054493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 8 (KCNA)—Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea, Tuesday [7 September] met and conversed with newly-appointed Palestinian Ambassador to Korea Shahir Muhammad who paid a courtesy call on him.

Official Receives PRC Publication Delegation

SK0809053993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 8 (KCNA)—Kim Ki-nam, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Tuesday met and had a friendly talk with the Chinese publication delegation led by Liu Youzhi, consultant to the Press and Publication Administration.

Present there were Yi Pong-su, director of the General Bureau of Publication, and an official of the Chinese Embassy here.

Libyan Envoy Hosts Reception on Anniversary

SK0809055393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 8 (KCNA)—Ramadan Muhammad al-Ra'ubi acting secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau of Libya to Korea, hosted a reception at the Ognyu Restaurant on Tuesday [7 September] evening on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the Great September First Revolution in Libya.

Invited to the reception were chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission Yi Song-tae, chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the General Federation of Trade Unions Chu Song-il, vice-director of a department of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea Kim Yang-kon, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Song-pom and other officials concerned.

Foreign diplomatic envoys in Korea were also invited.

Speeches were made there.

Foreign Private Delegations Arrive in Pyongyang

SK0409103293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 4 (KCNA)—Vishwanath, secretary general of the "International Kim Il-song Prize" Council, and a delegation of the Asian Regional Institute of the Chuche Idea led by President T.B. Mukherjee arrived here today.

Visitor Admires 'Excellent' Educational System

SK0409000593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 3 (KCNA)—Shuhach Inoue, director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea, visited the Pyongyang Nungna Primary School where the new school year opening ceremony took place on September 1, and expressed admiration at the excellent educational system of Korea.

Noting that it is unimaginable in other countries that senior party and government officials attend new school year opening ceremonies to congratulate children, he said:

Through the opening ceremony today I could keenly feel that the new generation to uphold the idea of comrade President Kim Il-song and Comrade Secretary Kim Chong-il are growing sturdily, forming ranks of millions.

The Korean-style socialism is invincible because it is a man- centred society.

The ceremony today helped me understand better that in Korea the man-centred idea begins with the education of children.

Teachers and parents of pupils are bringing up with one mind the younger generation to be reliable workers of the country in order to repay the benevolence of comrade President Kim Il-song and Comrade Secretary Kim Chong-il who value man most.

The sufficient school fixtures, well-arranged classrooms and laboratories for students to acquire serviceable knowledge—everything is, indeed, flawlessly good.

Saying Korean children understand the word of school fees only through an explanation by teachers, he added: The Korean children are happy, indeed.

Congratulatory Group of Koreans in Japan Arrives

SK0409103593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 4 (KCNA)—A congratulatory group of Koreans in Japan led by So Man-sul, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), arrived here today to celebrate the 45th founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It was met at the airport by Kim Yong-sun, Chang Chol, director of the general bureau for the reception of overseas compatriots Chin Yong-kuk and officials concerned.

Japanese Outlines 1923 'Massacre of Koreans'

SK0609114293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 6 (KCNA)—"The Japanese authorities, at the time of the great earthquake in Kanto in September, 1923, spread a groundless rumour about 'riots of Koreans' and brutally murdered Koreans by forming 'vigilance corps,' in an attempt to check the people's struggle," said Sadao Iwata, chairman of the Honjo City, Kotama County, Saitama Prefecture, Japan, League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship and Solidarity and member of the Kamisato-Cho Assembly, in an interview with CHOSON SINBO.

"Koreans were massacred in Honjo-Cho when they were being escorted to the police or were in custody," he said, "and the Kanto district literally turned into a 'sea of blood' of Koreans."

"The case of massacre of Koreans at the time of the Kanto earthquake was, in a word, caused by the sense of insult, prejudice and discrimination against the Korean nation," he said, adding: "The government is ignoring this crime, not uttering a word of apology still now though seventy years have passed."

He said, in the postwar disposal of problem, a quick atonement must be made for issues which require humanitarian and mental atonement.

Koreans in Japan Listen to Lecture on Socialism

SK0809052693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, September 6 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA)—A central lecture of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan celebrating the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held Monday.

The participants heard a lecture under the title "The Socialist Motherland of Chuche Is a True Country of the People Where an Independent Life Centred on Masses Is in Full Bloom".

The lecturer noted that the man-centred Korean socialist system of the homeland which was built by the great leader President Kim Il-song and has been made to shine by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is a social system under which the ideal desired so ardently by mankind has been realized and it is the most superior social system.

Stating that socialism is immediately the life and soul of the Korean people and the faith rooted deeply in their minds, the lecturer stressed: "Since there is the homeland of chuche where the Korean-style socialism centred on the masses which can be seen nowhere else in the world has been built, the 700,000 Korean residents in Japan can exalt the soul of the nation and the soul of patriotism.

Reportage on Kim Il-song Activities 4-8 Sep

Sends Wreath to Bier

SK0409044593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 4 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song on September 3 sent a wreath to the bier of the late Kim Hak-in, vice-minister of finance, expressing deep condolences over his death.

Kim Hak-in died from illness at the age of 75 at 22:00 On September 2, 1993. He worked devotedly for the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War and for the consolidation and development of the socialist system of Korea at important posts of the Korean People's Army and judicial, diplomatic and financial domains, remaining faithful to the leadership of the party and the leader.

Sends 'Aid' to Koreans in Japan

SK0809053093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 8 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song sent 104.3 million yen in Japanese currency of educational aid fund and stipends to the Korean residents in Japan for the Democratic National Education of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) on the threshold of the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The educational aid fund and stipends sent by President Kim Il- song for the children of the Korean residents in Japan in 124 installments amount to 41,690,042,433 yen.

Receives Flowers From Diplomats

SK0809111993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 8 (KCNA)—The diplomatic corps in Pyongyang presented a flower basket to the great leader President Kim Il-song on the occasion of the 45th founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The basket was handed Wednesday to Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign minister, by Yasir Farah, Syrian Ambassador to Korea, who is doyen of the diplomatic corps.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks, Letters

To Factory, Construction Workers

SK0709051893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 7 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the Moran Disabled Soldiers' Musical Instrument Factory for having overfulfilled its annual plans by more than 20 percent over the last 20 years and to the Hadan Hospital for its successes in medical science research and treatment of patients in 40 years.

His thanks also went to the working people who had taken part in the construction of Sinanju Youth Railway Station in South Pyongan Province.

To KPA Officers

SK0709054493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 7 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], sent an autographic letter to Yi Chong-un, a KPA officer, and his five brothers who are also officers of the KPA, in reply to their letter.

The reply letter reads:

"Thank you.

I carry on my revolutionary activities in reliance upon the minds of admirable party members upholding our party's leadership with loyalty like you, comrades.

Let us defend the socialist motherland to the last for its development and prosperity and for the happiness of our people.

[Dated] Sept. 5, 1993
[Signed] Kim Chong-il"

The six brothers are Colonel Yi Chong-un, Senior Colonel Yi Chong-sun, Senior Captain Yi Chong-han, Lieutenant Colonel Yi Chong- kon, Senior Captain Yi Chong-man and Captain Yi Chong-son.

Saying they have grown up to be commanding officers of the Revolutionary Army defending the socialist motherland, they wrote in the letter that it is their belief that their present and future and everything in this world are unthinkable apart from the great general.

"In particular, in the days of witnessing with deep emotions the wise guidance of you, respected comrade supreme commander, in humbling at a stroke the arrogant U.S. and other imperialist aggression forces and exalting the honour of heroic Korea to the whole world, we became all the more convinced that you, the great general, are the life and soul and destiny of all of us, the whole of our hope and future," they stressed.

They vowed to be always the hardcore elements and pillars, six swords and shields in making the People's Army the party's army, united behind the party in one mind, regarding respected comrade supreme commander's leadership to the People's Army as its lifeline.

To Truck Drivers

SK0609051193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 6 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on September 4 sent an autographic letter to Pyo Il-sok and his six brothers who are large truck drivers of the fifth ore transport work-team of the ore transport corps at the Musan mining complex, in reply to their letter.

The autographic letter reads:

"Thank you.

The socialist fatherland will develop and prosper, supported by the will and faith of its dependable sons like you, comrades.

September 4, 1993
Kim Chong-il."

Pyo Il-sok and his six brothers have overfulfilled the iron ore transport plan at 13 percent annually for the past five years since they were incharged with two modern big trucks sent by Comrade Kim Chong-il as gifts.

Noting in the letter that they, seven brothers, not owing even a penny to their parents, have grown up with no worry about food, clothing and education and are now standing in the forefront of economic construction under the benevolence and trust of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, they say they could not be tired with working day and night.

The letter recalls that the dear leader noted with appreciation that the Cholsan hill had produced seven brother drivers after the four drivers of father and sons, and let the eldest brother participate in a national meeting, took a measure to make them known throughout the country through the party's organ, television and a nationally broadcast meeting and sent benevolent gifts to them on three occasions in two years.

They stress in the letter that they know well through their worthwhile life that there can be neither fatherland nor happiness apart from the dear leader.

They vow to take a good care of the large trucks associated with the lofty intention of the dear leader and uphold the party and defend socialism with iron ores.

Pak Song-chol Receives Order of Kim Il-song

SK0409045293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0420 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 4 (KCNA)—The Order of Kim Il- song was awarded to Vice President Pak Song-chol.

A decree of the Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dated September 3 says the Order of Kim Il-song is conferred upon Pak Song-chol, vice-president of the Democractic People's Republic of Korea, on the occasion of his 80th birthday, who contributed to the accomplishment of the noble revolutionary cause of national liberation by participating in the glorious anti-Japanese armed struggle organised and led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and has rendered great services for the defence of the brilliant revolutionary traditions of our party and the consolidation and development of our socialist system, working at important posts of the party and the state for a long time.

Daily Urges Dissolution of South Security Board

SK0709050493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 7 Sep 93

["MINJU CHOSON Demands Dissolutiom of 'SPB'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 7 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today demands the dissolution of the South Korean puppet "Security Planning Board" [SPB] which played the leading part in masterminding the "peace dam" clamor against our republic.

It was the "SPB" that worked out a "water bomb scenario" to misrepresent the construction of the North's peaceful Kumgangsan power station as a "special construction" for a military purpose and which fostered terror among people over it and launched a malicious anti-DPRK smear campaign, heaping abuses on the North.

But this is not the whole story of the mischiefs of the "SPB." It has all along cast a chill over the improvement of the North-South relations and engaged itself in inciting confrontation and division between the two parts of the country.

The present rulers of South Korea, far from taking a serious view of the existence of such plot-breeding machine, are working to put fresh muscles into it. This intimates that they, like their prececessors, are going to use it as an expedient of anti-communist smear campaign for the "security of power."

It is a big mistake, if the present rulers of South Korea think they can prop up their power by the anti-communist jawbone campaign as their predecessors did.

If the South Korean authorities truly have the intention to resolve the North-South relations from a reunification-oriented stand, they must dissolve the "SPB," a target of hatred of the whole nation.

Daily on South Government's 'Fascist Nature'

SK0809053593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 8 Sep 93

["Fascist Nature Revealed Again"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the decision of the South Korean "Government" and the "Democratic Liberal Party" to increase the "fund for the operation" of police stations 1.7 times and that of police branch offices and police booths 2.1 times next year.

This means that the present South Korean "regime" cast off the "civilian" veil which it had been wearing to deceive and fool people and openly betrayed its fascist nature, the analyst says, and continues:

The South Korean present rulers claim that the increase of the operating fund of the police is intended for the "security of people", but this is a lie.

The police in South Korea is a fascist tool in the service of the ruling quarters, which always takes the lead in suppressing people. It is a fascist police that makes no scruple of firing tear gas canisters at people in peaceful demonstration and beating righteous- minded youth and students to death with iron pipes and shooting them dead in broad daylight.

The South Korean "regime's" decision to double the expenditure for the maintenance of such fascist police is tantamount to suppressing people with redoubled fury.

The fascist stick is not almighty at all.

If the present South Korean rulers reinforce the fascist suppressive force and go on the rampage in the suppression of people, this will only result in their miserable destruction.

'World Public' Urges End of South Security Law

SK0609152193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1504 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 6 (KCNA)—The world public is strongly demanding that the South Korean authorities scrap the "National Security Law" [NSL] at once and unconditionally set free prisoners of conscience.

The secretariat of the Amnesty International said in its June report that Kim Yong-sam kept prisoners of conscience in jail by invoking the "NSL" after he made a "commitment" to "guarantee freedom and democracy." This is a violation of human rights, it added.

The Amnesty International, the report noted, urges the South Korean "Government" to immediately revise the "NSL" in conformity with the international convention on citizenship and political rights and other norms of human rights and ensure that no more prisoners of conscience are arrested.

The Thai paper THE NATION wrote that in South Korea the people have been deprived of their rights to establish or express political views by the "NSL" and the "Law on Assembly and Demonstration".

A delegate of the International Association Against Torture said at the 45th session of the UN Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities that the present authorities of South Korea are still maintaining the anachronistic "National Security Law" even after they "committed themselves" to "democratisation" of society. The South Korean authorities must abolish the "law at once and release the prisoners of conscience unconditionally, he urged.

"COUNT DOWN", the organ of the Japanese council of participants in the international solidarity march movement supporting Korea's reunification, aid the South Korean authorities must immediately abrogate the "NSL", branding the North as "anti-state organization" and expressing hostility towards it and release at once all the political prisoners including visitors to the North, if they really want national reconciliation and reunification of the country.

Daily Discusses '10-Point' Reunification Plan

SK0609105393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 6 Sep 93

["Programme of Great Unity of Whole Nation Based on Chuche-oriented Viewpoint of Nation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 6 (KCNA)—"10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country," a classical work of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, is a great charter of national unity and reunification of the country which expounds in an all-round way the general goal of great unity of the nation and its ideological basis, the principles and ways of great unity on the basis of the chuche-oriented viewpoint of the nation, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article Monday.

The article says the 10-point programme is a great political programme indicating the way of solving the national problem with the chuche-oriented viewpoint of the nation as its ideological and theoretical basis because it is a programme of national unity which puts the nation's demand for independence to the fore from the viewpoint of regarding independence as the life and soul of the nation.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in the programme put forward the great unity of the nation as a strategic question of political alliance through which all forces which can stand together should be united from the viewpoint of regarding independence as the life and soul of the nation and thus victory of the cause of national independence be achieved, the article says, and continues:

The 10-point programme puts the nation's demand for independence to the fore from the viewpoint of regarding independence as the life and soul of the nation. This finds expression in that it regards love for the nation and the spirit of national independence as the ideological basis of the great unity of the whole nation and lays it down as the principle of great unity of the nation to promote co- existence, co-prosperity and common interests and subordinate everything to the cause of national reunification.

The article further says:

The principle of promoting co-existence, co-prosperity and common interests and subordinating everything to the cause of national reunification is the fundamental principle of great unity of the whole nation which regards independence as the life and soul of the nation and most fully reflects the nation's demand and aspirations for independence.

The 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation is also a programme of national unity based on the fundamental demand of the chuche-oriented viewpoint of the nation that national independence be defended and co-prosperity of the nation achieved by the united efforts of the whole nation.

The programme surely guarantees co-prosperity of the nation through the unity of the nation not only in the struggle for national reunification but also after the reunification.

The publication of the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation is, indeed, a salient expression of the great benevolent politics of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song who is wisely leading our fellow countrymen to the struggle for national independence with his scientific insight, profound ideas and theories and broad magnanimity.

Daily Stresses Idea of Army-People Unity

SK0509085593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0830 GMT 5 Sep 93

["Great Vitality of WPK's (Workers Party of Korea) Idea of Army-People Unity"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 5 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today describes the idea of Army-people unity of the Workers' Party of Korea as a powerful banner of unity, banner of victory, which enables the Army and the people to exalt the dignity and might of the motherland, the nation and socialism, singleheartedly united around their great leader.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is quoted as saying:

"Deepening the Army-people relations is an important matter in strengthening the People's Army and promoting socialist construction."

The paper in a by-lined article notes:

The idea of Army-people unity propounded by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is being defended resolutely, carried forward and put into reality by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il today.

The great vitality of this idea finds clear expression in that the Army and the people are united in one mind with the unshakable will to uphold their leader with loyalty and filial piety and they help and lead each other along in the efforts to translate the party's plan and intention into effect.

In our society, the people and the Army think and breathe in accordance with the idea and will of their leader and act as one as intended by the party and the leader.

How powerful the singlehearted unity of the Korean people and Army is was fully demonstrated during the semi-war period and the 40th war victory day celebrations this year.

The entire people and the Army are united in one mind around their leader, with the faith to uphold him with loyalty and filial piety and defend with their lives the party and the leader. Herein lies the invincible might of our Army-people unity.

In Korea it has become a tone of society that the Army and the people in unity help and lead each other along in the efforts to realise the party's plan and intention. This is a proud fruition of our party's idea of Army-people unity.

In our society, the Army and the people are all close revolutionary comrades and comrades-in-arms who uphold the cause of the party, though their posts and occupations are different.

The great vitality of our party's idea of Army-people unity finds another expression in that it makes our society a large harmonious family and brings the advantages of Korean-style socialism and its invincible might into full play.

In our society the Army and the people are closely united around their great leader, and they share warm kindred feelings, noble revolutionary duty and comradeship.

Our people donate their blood and skin to soldiers, if necessary, and take warm care of the life of the soldiers with parental affection. The soldiers deem it the highest honor and pride to devote themselves to the people and, if necessary, dedicate their youth and lives for the safety and property of the people.

Such warm, true and self-sacrificing relations of kinship between the people and the Army cannot be found in any other country than Korea.

It is entirely because the dear leader comrade Kim Chong-il is upheld at the head of our party and revolutionary Armed Forces that the idea of Army-people unity has been embodied brilliantly and the rock-firm singlehearted unity between the Army and the people has been achieved in Korea.

The proud realities of Korea where the Army and the people highly display the noble traits of Army-people unity, closely united around the party and the leader eloquently prove the truth that only under a great leader and an illustrious leader can the Army and the people achieve a rock-firm unity in one mind and the cheers of "Long live the Army-people unity" be raised.

Daily on 'Single-Hearted Unity' Around Leader

SK0709102993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 7 Sep 93

["NODONG SINMUN Calls For Glorifying Revolutionary Traits of Korean People"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 7 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today calls upon the party members and other working people to further glorify the great revolutionary traits of the Korean people singleheartedly united around the leader and consolidate the society into an integral whole of loyalty and filial piety.

In an editorial headlined "Let Us Glorify the Revolutionary Traits of Our People Singleheartedly United Around the Leader", the paper quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"The party and the leader believe in and have profound love for the people, and the people place absolute trust in the party and the leader and support them. This is the true nature of our single- hearted unity."

The paper further says:

Devotion and collectivist spirit, revolutionary obligation and comradeship with which people dedicate their all for the country and the people, the society and collective on the basis of the absolute trust in and ardent loyalty to the party and the leader are an important feature of the great revolutionary traits of the Korean society united in one mind.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il repeatedly sent significant autographic letters to workers and people's army soldiers in reply to their letters. This is a vivid scene showing the revolutionary traits of the Korean society in which the leader, the party and the masses are advancing unswervingly in singlehearted unity.

The great revolutionary traits of the Korean people who are singleheartedly united find their origin in the pure and clean loyalty with which they place their absolute trust in and share their destiny with the illustrious leader.

The noble revolutionary traits which are being brought into full play in the Korean society clearly show the ideological and mental world of the Korean people who resolutely fight, closely united around the illustrious leader.

The revolutionary traits of the Korean people who are singleheartedly united around the party and the leader are highly displayed in that they devote everything to the country and the people, the society and the collective.

The great traits of the Korean people who are singleheartedly united around the illustrious leader are being given full play in the country. This is a very precious success in consolidating the Workers' Party of Korea and adding shine to the Korean-style socialism. The Korean revolutionary ranks are an invincible revolutionary bulwark which is sure to win in any trial as the singlehearted unity around the leader has been consolidated.

The editorial lays stress on further consolidating and defending the successes made in the singlehearted unity of the revolutionary ranks and human transformation and thus making the society an integral whole of loyalty and filial piety.

KCNA Features Economic Agitation Activities

SK0409213493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 4 (KCNA)—The workers' art propaganda team of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea gave economic agitation on more than 23,000 occasions in the past two decades after its founding in September 1973.

The team began its economic agitation at the site of the expansion project of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex. Employing various forms and methods including meetings to congratulate innovators, agitation for those coming to the work sites and precinct agitation it has contributed to the increase of construction speed two or three times.

The economic agitation team has encouraged the producers and builders to feats at coal mines in Anju district and in front of the furnaces of the Kangson Steel Complex and at the Kumsong Tractor Complex, the Sungni Motor Complex, the Sunchon Vinalon Complex, the Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex, Kwangbok Street and other grand construction sites of socialism.

In the period, they have created and performed the dialogue poem "The Great Brilliant Commander" and the comic story telling "We Won" singing of the greatness of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the Workers' Party of Korea, the comic story telling "The Only One" and "We Follow is Intention" calling for living our own way and many other story telling and musical works.

11 Physical Education Universities Open 1 Sep

SK0409000093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1504 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 3 (KCNA)—Eleven new universities of physical education and more than 220 extramural sports schools and branches of the universities opened on September 1 in Pyongyang and local areas of Korea.

The universities admit children and students with an athletic bent and train them into sports experts and athletes through a five- year course of education.

North Hamgyong Workers Achieve 'Big Successes'

SK0309213593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 3 (KCNA)—Working people in North Hamgyong Province situated in the north-eastern part of Korea are registering big successes in their efforts to carry out the on-the- spot teachings of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

During his on-the-spot guidance to the province over August 20- 26, President Kim Il-song indicated in detail the orientation and ways of markedly developing the national economy of the province including metal and coal industries and agriculture.

The Kim Chaek iron and steel complex, a metallurgical giant in the northern part of the country, has set itself a goal of producing 20,000 more tons of iron and steel every month, and is effecting an unprecedented productive upswing by operating blast furnaces, converters and other metallurgical equipment at full capacity.

The Songjin steel complex is overfulfilling daily quotas of rolled steel and iron production these days.

The Musan mining complex, a leading iron concentrate production centre, is daily registering successes in production by keeping mining and dressing equipment in full operation. And it is pushing ahead in a prospective way with the project for disposing of debris, earth scrapings and tailings.

Myongchon, Onsong and Saeppyol District coal mining complexes and other coal mines are keeping production on a high level by introducing various efficient mining equipment and raising the mechanization standard of pit work.

The power industrial sector including the Chongjin thermal power plant and the March 17 hydraulic power station is remarkably increasing electricity production by raising the operation rate of the generating equipment.

Those in rural communities are making full preparations for the forthcoming harvest, manuring and cultivating crops well.

Besides, the Chongjin chemical fibre complex, the Hoeryong foodstuff association, the Chongjin shoe-making factory and many other industrial establishments in the province are increasing production noticeably by actively introducing various advanced work methods.

Taedaeri Mine Completes Plant, Projects

SK0609050793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 6 (KCNA)—A crushing and screening ground and an ore-dressing plant were built and put into operation at the Taedaeri mine situated in the central western part of Korea.

The builders removed over 65,700 cubic metres of earth and carried out some 6,400 cubic metres of concrete tamping and assembling of some 1,600 cubic metres of large pre-fab parts and assembled more than 120 big and small units of equipment, thus bringing earlier the day of commissioning.

With the commissioning of the projects, the mine's mineral dealing capacity increased 20 percent and the actual concentration rate 5 to 8 percent, and tens of thousands of more tons of phosphorus headings will be produced annually.

The commissioning ceremony took place on September 4.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to the workers and office employees of the mine and three-revolution team members working there.

Kowon-Puraesan Railway Opens to Traffic

SK0709102693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 7 (KCNA)—The Kowon-Puraesan Detour railway project in the Central Eastern part of Korea has been completed and opened to traffic.

Now, the trains running on the eastern coast line North of Kowon do not need to stop long for marshalling at Kowon railway station.

The time of a train stoppage at the station will be shortened by a half and the amount of work done at the station compound be lessened by over 30 percent.

The builders carried out in a short span of time 207,000 cubic metres of earthwork, the construction of 45 railway structures, a 1,800 square metres of retaining wall project and the construction of a flyover and completed the laying of railways in a 6.2 kilometres section.

The new railway was opened to traffic at Kowon station with due ceremony on September 5.

The great leader President Kim Il-song sent thanks to the railway builders and their helpers.

Workers Develop 'Effective Medical Instruments'

SK0709213193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 7 (KCNA)—Medical workers of Korea have developed many effective medical instruments and introduced them into clinical practice.

The Kim Man-yu Hospital has invented various kinds of updated instruments of diagnosis and therapy and used them in medical treatment of patients, letting the people fully enjoy the benefits of the free medical care system.

The medical workers of the hospital made 87 effective diagnosis and therapy instruments of 37 kinds over the past seven years.

Typical of them are the device of diagnosis and therapy of modulation wave, the centesimal computer of blood corpuscles and the noise neorometre of diagnosis and therapy.

The device of diagnosis and therapy of modulation wave efficacious for rheumatic arthritis, neuralgia, insomnia, etc. was awarded an international invention prize.

This instrument which proves highly effective in medical care for its stimulus to the skin of a patient without use of drugs is very popular among patients.

It is simple and portable.

The centesimal computer of blood corpuscles which has already been introduced into clinical practice analyzes white blood corpuscles with computer. It is better than the old instruments in analyzing the white blood corpuscle quickly in a scientific way.

The noise neorometre of diagnosis and therapy is effective in various kinds of neuralgia, pituitary gland disorders, epilepsy, etc.

The Korean General Red Cross Hospital, the hospital of the Pyongyang University of Medicine and hospitals of universities of medicine in provinces and other medical institutes have developed and manufactured many medical instruments.

'Evodia Fort' Tree Has 'High Economic Value'

SK0209012093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2204 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 1 (KCNA)—Plants of high economic value are growing in their number, greatly contributing to the improvement of the people' standard of living.

Evodia Fort is one of them.

This tree was originally distributed in some southern areas of South Hwanghae and Kangwon Province with a mild climate. However, it became rare to be seen after the three years of war (June 1950- July 1953).

One day in October 1964 while giving on-the-spot guidance in North Hwanghae Province, the great leader President Kim Il-song stopped before a tree at the foot of a mountain and said that it was Evodia Fort, a good-looking and oil-rich tree, and it should be tended well.

The great leader's idea of turning even wild plants into assets useful for the improvement of the people's standard of living has been carried into practice under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Comrade Kim Chong-il took concrete measures to plant this tree in large numbers in North and South Hwanghae Provinces, Pyongyang and South Pyongan Province.

The economic plant research group of Kye Ung-Sang University succeeded in nursing and propagating good species of this tree.

The tree lives more than 100 years and begins to bear fruit when it is four to five years old.

2.5 tons of fruit is gathered from each hectare, and more than one ton of oil can be extracted from it.

The fruit is used in making cooking oil, industrial oil, soap, high-class lacquer and medicine. The dregs are used as nutritious feed for domestic animals. High-class furniture is made of the wood.

Efforts to propagate the tree are under way in different harts of Korea.

More than 80 hectares of the tree have been created in Sohung County, North Hwanghae Province, where some 100 tons of fruit is gathered a year.

South Korea

Students Protest Near U.S. Center in Kwangju

SK0809015793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0150 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Kwangju, Sept. 8 (YONHAP)—Hundreds of students from Chonnam National University and Kwangju University, hurling paint and rocks, staged a surprise street protest near the American Center in Kwangju early Wednesday morning.

Police firing tear gas dispersed the estimated 500 students, who demonstrated for 10 minutes before running away. No casualties or damage were reported in the incident, during which police did not come into direct contact with the protestors.

The fleeing students smashed the windows of patrol cars and police buses parked near a police box beside the cultural center.

Witnesses said that the students demanded the scrapping of the National Security Law and bringing the No Tae-u administration to justice.

U.S. Pledge To Keep Troops in Asia 'Wise'

SK0409023893 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Sep 93 p 6

[Editorial: "New U.S. Defense Plan"]

[Text] The United States has shown its confidence to fight and win wars on two fronts at nearly the same time in a sweeping defense strategy which highlights, among other things, sharp cuts of the military in favor of a "lean, mobile and high-tech" force. It also keeps the U.S. committed to Korea's security.

The new post-Cold War defense plan, approved by U.S. President Bill Clinton, is unquestionably framed to maintain an American military might compatible with the need to mount quick and appropriate counteroffensives against the real dangers of regional conflicts.

As the rapidly changing world situation still remains vulnerable to the eruption of hostilities, the U.S. policy stresses forward presence of U.S. forces nimble enough to pour massive firepower into any point on the globe.

Developing the policy, the Pentagon selected two scenarios—an envisioned attack by North Korea against South Korea and a remilitarized Iraq moving against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia—warning against the possibility of a challenge by a "well-armed regional power initiating aggression thousands of kilometers from the U.S."

In what is called a bottom-up review of its military power, the U.S. will see the reduction of the Army from 14 divisions to 10, a cut of troops from the current 1.7 million to 1.4 million, maintenance of 12 aircraft carriers, and continued development of the Air Force's new-generation F-22 Stealth fighter. But production of the Air Force's F-16 fighter jets will be stopped after 1994.

Viewed from a new global strategic perspective that recognized the need to revise the previous policy that centered everything around anti-communism, the shaping of new defense program was inevitable if the U.S. was to be capable of taking the most efficient action with increased crisis-response potential.

So delicate is the development of the environment surrounding the Korean peninsula that we are particularly concerned about U.S. preparations to confront regional bullies such as North Korea and to win two regional conflicts almost simultaneously.

In this connection, it was very wise of the U.S. to reconfirm its pledges to keep about 100,000 troops in Europe and nearly that many in Asia and the Pacific, mainly in South Korea and Japan. This will serve as a clear-cut indication that any peace-breaking force will not be allowed to get away with murder.

Needless to say, South Korea and the U.S. will be compelled to coordinate strategies more closely than before in carrying out the new U.S. defense plan in the common task of holding any force undermining world peace, particularly that of North Korea, in check.

Delegate, U.S. To Discuss Farm Trade in Geneva

SK0809020293 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Sep 93 p 8

[Text] Korea will resume negotiations with the United States in Geneva on Friday [10 September] on freer farm produce trade prior to going into the Uruguay Round [UR] of world trade negotiations, officials said yesterday.

Chon Chung-in, director general for international agricultural trade and cooperation at the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry, will leave for Geneva today for the meeting, leading a three-member delegation.

He will also have similar talks with senior officials from the European Community, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, all exporters of agricultural and livestock products to Korea, by early next week.

High on their agenda will be schedules for market opening, an issue which has largely stalled the Uruguay Round talks.

Chon, however, reaffirmed Seoul's firm opposition to tariffication and minimum market access proposals with regard to trade liberalization for agro-fishery products, in particular 15 key foodstuffs including rice.

He said that there is still a mixture of optimistic and pessimistic prospects for the future of the multilateral negotiations.

If the Uruguay Round progresses well, the six and half year-old talks will conclude by Dec. 15 and be signed by the members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade by mid-April next year.

Ministry Expects Delay in U.S.-North Talks

SK0809040293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0320 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 8 (YONHAP)—The third round of U.S.-North Korean high-level talks on the North Korean nuclear issue, which had been expected next week, will be delayed until late this month, a Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

"At present, it appears physically impossible for the two countries to hold the third round of their talks next week," said the official, requesting anonymity.

"There is a strong possbility that the date for the talks will be fixed after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) holds a Board of Governors meeting Sept. 22-24," he said.

Robert Gallucci, assistant secretary of state for political and military affairs and the chief U.S. delegate to the talks, is scheduled to visit Seoul on Sept. 9-13, the official said.

Gallucci will return to Washington around Sept. 15, after a stopover in Japan, he said.

"Therefore, unless there is a drastic development, it would be difficult to hold the U.S.-North Korean meeting next week."

With regard to Gallucci's visit to Seoul, he said that in preparation for the U.S.-North Korean conference, the U.S. official is to coordinate with South Korea on each other's position for its talks with North Korea.

But North Korea's attitude remains unclear and Seoul and Washington have to re-examine overall problems, including conditions for the third round of the U.S.-North Korean talks, he said.

During Gallucci's visit, South Korea and the United States will decide on how far North Korea-IAEA talks and inter-Korean dialogue should progress in order for the United States to hold the third round of its talks with Pyongyang, he said.

Gallucci is scheduled to arrive in Seoul on Thursday night and hold talks with his South Korean counterpart Sin Ki-pok and other working-level officials and Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu until Sept. 14.

Japanese SDP Chairman Yamahana Continues Visit

Discusses 'Comfort Women' Issue

OW0409144493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1427 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 4 KYODO—A South Korean civic group urged Social Democratic Party (SDP) leader Sadao Yamahana on Saturday [4 September] to persuade the Japanese Government to pay compensation to women forced to provide sex for soldiers of the wartime Imperial Army.

"We are encouraged by the fact that the SDP with longtime close ties with us has become a part of the new (Japanese coalition) government and hope the SDP will help bring about an early solution of the compensation issue," said Liang Shun-ren [name as received], head of the civic group.

Liang and three other executives of the civic group made the request in a 25-minute meeting with Yamahana at a Seoul hotel.

The group is comprised of Korean women forcibly brought to frontline military brothels and families of the victims of Japan's wartime activities, such as forced conscription into the army.

Liang asked the SDP leader to create a contact point through which the civic group could press its demands.

In reply, Yamahana, who arrived in Seoul earlier in the day for a three-day official visit, told the group, "We want to consider your request seriously and honestly."

Yamahana, however, stopped short of making an explicit commitment on the compensation request. Yamahana is concurrently a cabinet minister in charge of political reform.

The exchanges came after Yamahana offered his party's "heartfelt apologies" for Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula in a message to the South Korean people read out at Seoul's Kimpo Airport.

In the arrival statement, Yamahana, the first incumbent SDP leader to pay an official visit to South Korea, also reaffirmed his party's intention to break with its past Korea policy, which has been unwaveringly pro-Pyongyang.

Yamahana, who is visiting at the invitation of South Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), expressed regret over his party's past hostile stance toward South Korea and the uncertainty caused by the "speech and conduct" of party members.

Until it recognized South Korea as an independent state in 1986, the SDP had argued that North Korea was the sole legitimate government on the peninsula.

Concerning North Korea's alleged nuclear weapons program, he said Pyongyang must revive its membership of the nuclear non- proliferation treaty and fully comply with the treaty's safeguard accords that require international inspections of nuclear facilities.

Yamahana also apologized for some SDP legislators' remarks that had blamed the 1987 bombing of a South Korean jetliner by a self- confessed North Korean spy on an alleged plot by the South Korean Government.

Asked by reporters about the legislators' public comments on the incident, Yamahana said such remarks did not reflect the SDP's official position.

In the 1987 Korean Air jetliner bombing that claimed the lives of 115 passengers and crew, the agent, Kim Hyon-hui, told South Korean investigators that she was instructed to plant a time bomb on the plane by Kim Chong-il, son of North Korean leader Kim Il-song.

Some SDP legislators then publicly condemned the Seoul government for making a false allegation to draw an international condemnation of North Korea.

Yamahana told reporters the legislators made such comments due to "the background of the era of the Cold War when the Japanese Government maintained ties with South Korea, while the opposition SDP held ties with North Korea."

Yamahana is scheduled to meet with South Korean President Kim Yong-sam, who also heads the DLP, and the former co-chairman of the opposition Democratic Party, Kim Tae-chung, who has now retired from politics.

Kim Yong-sam Meets Yamahana

OW0609105693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1015 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 6 KYODO—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam welcomed Monday [6 September] the new stance toward Seoul of Japan's Social Democratic Party (SDP), party officials said.

The president gave high marks to changes in the party's Korean policy in a meeting with SDP Chairman Sadao Yamahana, who said on arrival here Saturday his party intends to break with its exclusively pro-Pyongyang stance and open a new chapter in relations with Seoul.

"(The two countries) should correctly settle the past and establish future-oriented relations," Kim was quoted as saying.

Yamahana, state minister for political reform in Japan's coalition government and the first incumbent SDP leader to pay an official visit to South Korea, on Saturday offered his party's "heartfelt apologies" for Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula.

In their Monday meeting, Kim was quoted as saying his country will not demand material compensation for Korean women forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during World War II.

Yamahana said the issue must be settled from Japan's moral point of view.

He also said the SDP is pressing North Korea to stay in the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and accept international inspection of suspect nuclear facilities.

South To Send Delegates 10 Sep for S-N Talks

SK0809013893 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0100 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] In the name of Prime Minister Hwang In-song, the government sent a telephone message to North Korea's Kang Song-san, premier of the Administration Council, on the morning of 8 September notifying the North side that the South will dispatch three working- level delegates from our side on 10 September, the date proposed by the North side, to Tongilgak, on the North's side of Panmunjom, to discuss the issue of exchanging special envoys.

In the telephone message, the government said the preconditions [chonje chokon] the North demands for the working-level delegates contact—that our side suspend the so-called the nuclear war exercise and give up the international cooperative system [kukche kongcho cheje]—raises doubts about the North's attitude for talks but that this should be discussed at the meeting. The telephone message emphasized that North Korea should come forward with a sincere attitude in the South-North dialogue to resolve the nuclear issue.

It also said that the South side will dispatch three minister- level working-level delegates including Song Yong-tae, vice minister of the Board of National Unification, and four additional suite members to the 10 September Panmunjom working-level contact.

South Requests 8 Sep Talk

SK0809074093 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0520 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Excerpts] This morning, the government sent a telephone message to North Korea in the name of Prime Minister Hwang In-song saying that it would send three working-level delgates to Panmunjom on 10 September, the date the North Korean side set, to discuss the exchange of special envoys.

Reporter Kwak U-sin reports:

[Begin recording] "[Passage omitted] At 3 PM [0600 GMT] on 8 September, the government will hold an additional telephone contact with the North through North-South liaison officials in Panmunjom. It will propose exchanging lists of working-level delegates and their suites and discussing the extent of reporters' coverage and preparations for talks.

Accordingly, the success of the upcoming working-level delegates contact on 10 September will be determined by North Korea's response to the South side's proposal for contacts between liaison officials.

In connection with this, Unification Board Vice Minister Song Yong-tae said that he would wait until 12 PM [0300 GMT] on 9 September for the North side to respond to the South's proposal, and stressed: If there is progress in the settlement of the North Korean nuclear issue, the Team Spirit exercise can be suspended [chungjihalsu ittnun mankum]. Therefore, the North side must show its sincere attitude.

Vice Minister Song added: The North Korean nuclear issue is a matter for our nation as well as the international community. In this respect, North Korea's demand that we abandon the international cooperative system is unreasonable [pudanghada].

A relevant government official said: North Korea is waiting to hold the third round of talks with the United States. In this respect, North Korea is likely to respond to South Korea's proposal for the working-level delegates contact. [end recording]

North Fails To Respond

SK0809112993 Seoul YONHAP in English 1119 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea's proposal to have an inter-Korean liaison officials contact at Panmunjom on Wednesday [8 September] to discuss proposed working-level delegates' talks, failed to materialize as the North did not respond.

"Our side proposed to have a liaison officials contact at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom at 3 PM Wednesday," Vice Unification Minister Song Yong- tae said.

But, the North Korean liaison official did not show up on the ground that he had received no instructions from Pyongyang, the vice minister said.

The South had informed the North that it would nevertheless wait for North Korea's attendance at the liaison contact until 12 noon Thursday, Song said.

Sports Ministry 'Ready' To Resume North Talks

SK0409023993 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Sep 93 p 20

[Text] Culture and Sports Minister Yi Min-sop said yesterday that his ministry is ready to resume South-North sports talks at any time.

If resumed, the ministry will propose the revival of the South- North Unification Soccer Competition held in Pyongyang and Seoul in 1990 and discuss the matters concerning formation of a unified team for the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games and 1996 Winter Asian Games, he specified.

During a meeting with reporters, Yi continued that mutual exchange of athletes and sports reporters and inauguration of regular friendly matches in such events as soccer, pingpong, rowing and ice hockey will also be suggested in the talks.

The ministry will also propose the North Korea to jointly sponsor an international sports event in 1995 to mark the 50th anniversary of the national liberation from Japanese colonial rule.

A draft plan of the preparation for the 1997 Winter Universiad to be held in Muju, Chollapuk-to, has been worked out. Full-fledged preparation for the event will start from the middle of this month when the organizing committee of the Games is to be formed, Yi revealed.

Yi also said that the qualification for sports organizations under the wing of Korea Amateur Sports Association (KASA) to reorganize themselves as a corporate body will be modified greatly.

The amount of funds each organization is required to have to turn itself to a corporate body will be reduced from 1 billion won to 500 million won. The organizations aspiring to become corporate bodies will receive 500 million won of subsidies from the ministry Yi said.

The measure is aimed at seeking specialty and financial self- sufficiency of the organizations, he added.

The ministry will also render as much as 40 billion won of assistance to 44 sports organizations in the five-year period starting this year to enhance the athletic capabilities of outstanding athletes.

The subsidies ranging from 84 million won to 250 million won were already paid to the organizations this year. In addition to that, 272 million won and 240 million won were rendered respectively for the Seoul Cup International Women's Handball Competition held in Seoul on Aug. 31-Sept. 1 and World Taekwondo Championship held in New York on Aug. 15-21.

Such cultural events as academic seminars, performances by those designated as human cultural properties and street festivals will be added to the coming National Games slated for Oct. 11-17 in Kwangju to emphasize the cultural function of the sports event, Yi said.

Article Views Prospects for North-South Dialogue

SK0409112693 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 4 Sep 93 p 2

[Article by Yu Sung-u]

[Text] South and North Korea have in fact agreed to hold a dialogue in the form of an exchange of special envoys. Therefore, there is a good possibility that the special envoys appointed by the heads of the two sides will visit Seoul and Pyongyang.

The exchange is not an exchange of emissaries but an open exchange of special envoys. This is the first of its kind in South- North dialogue.

In connection with the special envoy's duties and attributes and the venue and time of the exchange, our side's position is to open up all possibilities and make the decisions on these matters through working-level contacts after taking into consideration the North side's opinions. The reason our side decided to fully accept North Korea's proposal is to bring North Korea to the dialogue table. Therefore, there is no need to attach unnecessary conditions.

Three methods for the exchange of special envoys are being examined. The first is for the special envoys of each side to visit each other's capital simultaneously; the second is for the special envoy of each side to visit the other side's capital at different times; and the third is for the special envoys to hold talks at a third country or in Panmunjom. There is very little possibility that the third venue will be used because the nature of the upcoming exchange of special envoys is to convey important matters between the top levels. Considering the current complicated pending issues, it is estimated that the simultaneous exchange of special envoys is not appropriate. It is thought that using the same method special envoys were exchanged right before the 4 July 1972 Joint Statement, the special envoys will visit each other's capitals one at a time.

If this method is selected there is a good possibility that the North side's special envoy will come to Seoul first. It is customary to dispatch the special envoy from the side that proposed the exchange first. Therefore, there is a good possibility for the North side to visit Seoul first, because on 25 May the North Korean side first made this proposal through the State Administration Council Prime Minister Kang Song-san's telephone message. For example in 1972, Yi Hu-rak, director of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, who first proposed to hold talks, went to Pyongyang on 2 May and then the North Korean side's Vice President Pak Song-chol came to Seoul.

Our side's plan for the first-stage of the special envoys talks is to concentrate on the nuclear issue. It is expected that the true motive of North Korea's proposal for the exchange of special envoys will be revealed at this stage. Many people believe that President Kim Il-song's personal letter will contain a demand for a firm guarantee that the South side will give up the reunification method through absorption.

Government officials surmise that the duties and attributes of the special envoys are limited to the role of starting once again the engine which went off. It means that after paving the way to the resumption of the dialogue, which had been completely suspended, important matters that were agreed upon will once again be carried out within the framework of the South-North high-level talks.

In connection with the focus of attention on who will be appointed special envoy, it was learned that the government has several plans in mind. Since the working-level delegate is to be selected from the vice ministerial level, the special envoy will have to at least be from the ministerial level. The government is working to conduct the exchange of special envoys. Therefore, if North Korea proposes to appoint a person who is not of authority for the special envoy, the government is considering to actively accept the proposal. If a person in authority is appointed for the special envoy, Pak Kwan-yong, chief secretary of the Presidential Secretariat, is the strongest candidate. Deputy Prime Minister Han Wan-sang is also a prospective candidate. If the special envoy is not a person of authority, former Prime Minister Chong Won-sik; former Deputy Prime Minister Choe Ho-chung; and Yi Hong-ku, senior vice president of the Advisory Council on Peaceful Reunification Policy, are prospective candidates.

Ministry Reports South-North Commodity Exchanges

SK0609122593 Seoul YONHAP in English 1149 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 6 (YONHAP)—Commodity exchanges between the two Koreas totaled 22,993,000 dollars in August, up 63.3 percent over the like month of last year.

An official of the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry said on Monday that the August amount brings to 132,945,000 dollars the aggregate of inter-Korean commodity exchanges in the first eight months of this year. The total represents a decline of 10 percent from a year before.

The decrease despite the August surge was because commodity exchanges shrank between the two sides since last October in tensions over North Korea's nuclear issues.

The August volume included 22,627,000 dollars worth of goods taken to the South and 366,000 dollars worth shipped to North Korea.

Among the items brought into the South were gold, silver and zinc ingots, steel, textile goods, farm and fishery products and smokeless coal for producing coke, while tetoron cotton was the only shipment to the North.

Assets of 'Ranking Officials' To Be Disclosed

SK0609013093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0109 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 6 (YONHAP)—Personal assets of more than 1,000 ranking officials will be revealed Tuesday in the most comprehensive disclosure in South Korean political history.

A total of 1,167 public officials of grade one and up from government ministries, courts, and government-affiliated organizations, and all 292 lawmakers, will be put to an ethical test when their property is listed in the official gazette for public view.

Thirty-one ministers including the prime minister, 71 vice minister-level officials, 466 officials of grade one and up and 141 members of government-related organizations are on the list.

Judges, military officers ranked lieutenant general or higher, state university presidents and chairmen of government-invested groups will be revealing their assets for the first time.

This time, the key points will be not only scope of the disclosure but the discrepancies among officials caught with bank accounts and other holdings under pseudonyms.

The officials registered their wealth before President Kim Yong- sam announced the real-name financial system on Aug. 12, leaving them room to omit all holdings not recorded in their names.

Everyone must change their pseudonymous accounts into their real names by Oct. 12, but one official said, "the secret holdings will not surface if someone decides to abandon their accounts."

The government ethics committee begins a three-month investigation immediately, and those caught lying are punishable with a maximum 20 million won in fines, official publicity in the press and dismissal from their posts.

For protection of privacy, address of real estate and apartment holdings will not be disclosed in full detail. Branch names of the banks in which they have their accounts will also be withheld.

Another set of property disclosures is due on local government officials who must register by Sept. 11 for listing by Oct. 11.

Ministry on Diplomats' Assets

SK0609090093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0301 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 6 (YONHAP)—Diplomats, it turns out, are wealthier than was considered likely since they are not exactly subject to heavy lobbying, and the Foreign Ministry wasted no time Monday in justifying the unexpected phenomenon.

Ambassadors and their equivalents account for one-fifth of the 709 government ministry officials who must disclose their personal assets, which is the first reason diplomats may fall easy prey to public judgement, according to Vice Foreign Minister Hong Sun-yong, who took the time out to chat with reporters on the topic Monday morning.

Thirteen people were found to have over 2 billion won in assets, including politically appointee Son Chu-hwan, Director of the Ministry's Korea Foundation, and Ambassador to Washington Han Sung- su.

The list also includes the Ambassadors to Pakistan, Greece, Belgium, the Philippines, Czech, Hungary, Bulgaria and Libya.

At the ministry, Chief of Protocol Choe Tong-chin and Ambassador- at-large Kim Sok-hyon were on the list.

Richest is director of the ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) Pak Su-kil, who has over 5 billion won in personal property.

The three at headquarters submitted memos explaining how they acquired their wealth. According to the memos, Pak sold his house in 1973 before leaving for an overseas post and bought over 500 pyong of land in Nonhyon-tong for about 5 million won. Now the Nonhyon-tong land is worth 4.3 billion won, the memo explained.

Chief protocol officer Choe explained he inherited most of his wealth from his father, who was a millionaire in Sihung. He sold part of his inheritance in 1977 before taking his post in Japan and bought land in Malchuk-gori that now is valued at about 2.3 billion won.

"These people are the lucky ones who took a shot in the dark and hit the right target," Vice Foreign Minister Hong said. "There is an equal number who lost their life savings after making the wrong investments before going abroad."

Career diplomats have more chance to sell and buy real estate and stocks since they rotate between home and abroad every three to five years, Hong explained.

Officials' Assets Disclosed

SK0609092493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0614 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 6 (YONHAP)—Rep. Chong Mong-chun (Ind.) is South Korea's richest ranking public official with personal property to be disclosed Tuesday of 79.9 billion won (almost 100 million U.S. dollars).

Following Chong are ruling Democratic Liberal Party Reps. Kim Chin-chae with 66.2 billion won, Cho Chin-hyong with 48.4 billion won, Yi Myong-pak with 27.4 billion won and Pak Kyu-sik with 22.4 billion won.

In the opposition, Rep. Kim Yong-hwan of the United People's Party [UPP] is richest with 6.9 billion won, followed by Reps. Kim Chong-hyon and Kim Won-kil of the Democratic Party [DP] with 6 billion won each.

DP Chairman Yi Ki-taek is the richest among party leaders with 3.9 billion won, followed by Kim Chong-pil (DLP) with 2.45 billion won, Yi Chong-chan (NKP) [New Korea Party] with 2.34 billion won and Kim Tong-kil (UPP) with 1.35 billion won.

Among senior presidential secretaries, Chief Presidential Secretary Pak Kwan-yong has 750 million won: Political Secretary Chu Ton-sik, 2.19 billion won: Economic Secretary Pak Chae-un, 480 million won: Foreign-Security Secretary Chong Chong-uk, 580 million won: Government Affairs Secretary Kim Yang-pae, 560 million won: Petition-information Secretary Kim Young-su, 840 million won: Press Secretary Yi Kyong-chae, 320 million won: Policy Secretary Kim Chong-nam, 580 million won: Administrative Secretary Hong In-kil, 230 million won: and chief presidential bodyguard Pak Sang-pom, 660 million won.

The wealthiest member of the Chongwadae [presidential offices] staff of grade one is Secretary for Justice Kim Hyok-kyu with 4.63 billion won.

On the Board of Audit and Inspection, Commissioner Ryu Kil-son is top with 2.49 billion won, followed by Chief Planning Officer Chu Sang-sok with 1.17 billion won. Chairman Yi Hoe-chang has reduced his registered assets to 910 million won from 1.55 billion won in the previous registration, and Secretary General Hwang Yong-ha is worth 930 million won.

In the Agency for National Security Planning, Director Kim Tok is the richest with 930 million won, followed by First Deputy Director Hwang Chang-pyong with 720 million won and Second Deputy Director Yi Pyong-ho with 240 million won.

Prime Minister Hwang In-song registered 2,486 million won, up from his previous 2,473 million won. Environment Minister Hwang San-song is the next wealthiest cabinet member with 2,367 million won, followed by Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Kim Chol-su with 1,797 million won, First State Minister Kim Tok-yong with 1,597 million won, Government Administration Minister Choe Chang-yun with 1,559 million won and Construction Minister Ko Pyong-u with 1,364 million won.

Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu registered 1,109 million won, about half his previous 2,196 million won.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Ho Sin-haeng registered the smallest property on the cabinet at 290 million won and the average of cabinet ministers is 970 million won, down from an average of 1.04 billion won in March.

Among vice ministers, Vice Second State Minister Kim Chong-suk is the wealthiest with 5.25 billion won, followed by Vice Economic Planning Minister Kim Yong-tae with 1.8 billion won, Vice Defense Minister Yi Su-hyu with 1,703 million won, Vice First State Minister Chong Song-chol with 1.44 billion won, and Vice Health and Social Affairs Minister Choe Su-pyong with 1.37 billion won.

Ambassador to Greece Yi Sung-hwan is the richest diplomat at 5.42 billion won, followed by Director Pak Su-kil of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security with 5.04 billion won, Ambassador-in-waiting Kim Ki-su with 3.54 billion won, Ambassador to Pakistan Kim Chong-hun with 3.42 billion won and Chief Protocol Officer Choe Tong-chin with 3.22 billion won.

Kim Kwang-tok of the Korea Maritime and Port Administration is the wealthiest grade one official with 7.66 billion won, followed by Adviser Paek Nak-so of the National Unification Board with 4.88 billion won, Assistant Minister Hong Chol of the Construction Ministry with 4.11 billion won and Vice Director Kim Hyong-hoe of the Korean National Railroad with 3.62 billion won.

In the judiciary, chief of the Inchon District Court, Yi Chol- hwan, is the richest with 7.85 billion won, followed by senior Seoul High Court Judge Sin Myong-kyun with 7.44 billion won and Chief of the Changwon District Court Chong Chi-hyong with 5. 73 billion won.

Chief Justice Kim Tok-chu registered 2.78 billion won for disclosure, while justices averaged 1.52 billion won against 1,202 million won for judges.

Justice Minister Kim Tu-hui registered 808 million won, Vice Justice Minister Kim Ki-sok 690 million won and Prosecutor General Pak Chong-chol 1.92 billion won. Deputy Prosecutor General Kim To- un is the richest in the prosecution with 3.71 billion won, followed by Seoul District High Prosecutor Kim Yu-ho with 2.49 billion won and Cheju District Prosecutor Yi Won-song with 2.12 billion won. Chongju District Prosecutor Choe Myong-son is the poorest with 310 million won and the average for prosecutors is 990 million won.

Among the heads of state-run enterprises, Pak Song-tok, president of the Korea Standards and Science Institute, is the wealthiest with 6.99 billion won, followed by So Sang-ki, president of the Korea Institute of Machinery and Metals, with 6.19 billion won and Choe Chong-su, director of the Patriots and Veterans Hospital No. 1, with 5.47 billion won.

Im Son-chae, dean of the Chonan Institute of Technology, registered 4.01 billion won and Kyongbuk National University President Kim Ik-tong 3.26 billion won.

In the military, Lt. Gen. Yi Taek-hyong of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is wealthiest with 1,245 million won, followed by Lt. Gen. Chang In-sok of the National Defense College with 954 million won and Lt. Gen. Yi Chae-tal of the Korean Military Academy with 949 million won.

The average for the 46 military officers required to disclose their property is 460 million won.

Gen. Yi Yang-ho, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, registered 885 million won, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Kim Tong-chin, 716 million won, Naval Chief of Operations Adm. Kim Hong-yol, 46 million won, and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Cho Kon-hae, 466 million won.

Report on Army Group's Assets

SK0609101793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0707 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 6 (YONHAP)—Public interest is rivetted on former members of Hanahoe, a private organization of Army officers, among the 46 generals whose personal assets are being disclosed by the government.

Gen. Yi Taek-hyong (Military Academy 19th class), commander of the strategic planning headquarters of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is the richest military officer with 1.24 billion won and was a member of Hanahoe.

Hanahoe, a fraternity of Army officers who graduated from the Military Academy, had been active in politics with general-turned- politicians Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u as two of the most illustrious members.

With the inauguration of the civilian administration of President Kim Yong-sam, Hanahoe was ordered disbanded as part of government efforts to keep military officers out of politics.

Gen. Kim Chae-chang (Military Academy 18th class), deputy commander of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command and a former Hanahoe member, ranked 10th in the list of richest generals with 698 million won.

Other Hanahoe members included Gen. Kim Chung-hon (18th class), superintendent of the Military Academy, 556 million won, and Gen. Kim Sang-chun (19th class), commander of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Operations Planning Headquarters, 690 million won.

Lt. Gen. Han Tok-son (20th class), 566 million won, Lt. Gen. Kim Chong-pae (20th class), 629 million won, Lt. Gen. Kim Kil-pu (20th class), 604 million won, and Lt. Gen. Pyo Sun-pae (21st class), 627 million won, are also former members of Hanahoe.

All in all, former members of Hanahoe were richer than other generals with average personal assets of more than 600 million won, compared with the average of 467 million won for all registered military generals.

Government To Check Assets

SK0609115793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0838 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 6 (YONHAP)—With the disclosure of registered personal assets of some 1,167 public officials of grade one and above Monday, the government will proceed to check them during the next three months.

Officials who made false declarations will be investigated by the prosecution. And if the suspicion is confirmed, they will receive a warning or administrative action.

Specifically, they may be fined up to 20 million won and have their deception announced publicly through the press, or be fired or be given disciplinary action.

Screening of registered and publicly disclosed assets will be done by the ethics committee of each governmental agency in accordance of the revised ethics law just adopted by the National Assembly.

But some branches of government have so many registered officials that their ethics committee cannot screen all of them. They include the administration with 709 officials, the National Assembly with 325, and the Supreme Court with 103.

As a result, the ethics committees will hold an overall meeting soon to decide on the criteria for their screening, including the subjects and methods.

In this connection, the ethics committees have initially decided to investigate those suspected of having accumulated personal assets by abusing public positions, those who could have registered false figures, those who are suspected of hiding assets or evading taxes and those who may have speculated in real estate.

One high-ranking government official said Monday that what matters most for the ethics committees is not the amount of money but how it was accumulated.

During the checking, some officials may be asked to submit supplementary documents, official papers to back up their registration, answer written questionnaires, or confirm facts.

The revised ethics law requires all officials to comply with ethics committee requests for submission of those papers, even though in some cases they may come in conflict with other laws, officials explained.

The law also compels relatives to answer an ethics committee request for their presence for questioning or written questions. In this connection, an ethics committee will have to ask the justice or defense ministers to further investigate if it finds suspicion of falsehood.

The justice and defense ministries have an obligation to conduct investigations and report back to the ethics committee.

An ethics committee can also ask cooperation from the office of national tax administration in case of real estate checking and banks in case of checking cash, deposits or other movable assets.

With the advent of real-name financial transactions, all public officials are required to transfer deposits under assumed or borrowed names to their own names by Oct. 12.

Officials Use 'Fancy Footwork'

SK0609120793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0851 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 6 (YONHAP)—Personal properties have suddenly appeared out of the blue, disappeared into nowhere or skyrocketed or plummeted in value for public officials since March, when they last had to disclose their assets, apparently as the result of some fancy footwork to escape a public scolding and punishment for lying.

Some examples:

Rep. Kim Chin-chae (ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]) saw his bank savings increase from 191 million won to 638 million won and his stock holdings escalate in value from 1,386 million won to 9,538 million won.

Rep. O Chang-sop (DLP) discovered stocks worth 415 million won belonging to his father, and his savings have increased from 105 million won to 188 million won since March.

Construction Minister Ko Pyong-u diminished his bank savings from 222 million won to 130 million won, but newly declared stocks more than made up for the spending with a value of 447 million won.

Health and Social Affairs Minister Song Chong-suk saved 60 million won more to add to 120 million won and her stocks went up from 31 million won to 62 million won.

Yu Kyong-hyon, secretary-general of the Advisory Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification, said last time he didn't have any savings in the bank but reported 42 million won this time.

Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu also reported for the first time a bank account under his name for 5 million won in addition to his wife's account, which enlarged to 57 million won from 30 million won.

Transportation Minister Yi Kye-ik reported his wife's stocks went up from 60 million won to 95 million won while Trade, Industry and Resources Minister Kim Chol-su said his stocks bloated from 87 million won to 103 million won.

Rep. Chong Chae-chol (DLP), after sharp eye for omitting his wife's and son's holdings of unlisted stocks, reported them this time at 1.39 billion won.

Rep. So Chong-hwa (DLP), who said his 1,000 pyong of land in Southern Seoul was worth only 100 million won, now says it is worth 640 million won.

Rep. Yi Myong-pak (DLP), suspected of real estate speculation for his 470 pyong in Southern Seoul, sold it at half the going price of 6 billion won in June.

Rep. Chong Ho-yong (DLP) was found to have some 300 pyong in Northern Kyongsang Province that he never declared but sold it in may at 30,000 won per pyong, at least 200,000 won less than the market price.

Rep. Na Ung-pae (DLP) said last March he had "an office" worth 1,194 million won but said this time he actually had a building estimated at 5,527 million won in value.

Chongwadae Secretary Resigns Due to Criticism

SK0809100493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0646 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 8 (YONHAP)—Presidential Secretary for Police Affairs Pak No-yong resigned under a cloud on Wednesday because of public criticism over the way he built his fortune.

His resignation was accepted immediately.

Pak is a police inspector on secondment from the National Police Agency, where he had returned earlier in the day after being relieved of his duties at Chongwadae.

In his resignation, he said he was sorry for giving a problem to President Kim Yong-sam with his personal property.

A Chongwadae official said Pak's registered assets, valued at 2.9 billion won, had been investigated because there was a problem with the way he had acquired them.

When he become an object of public criticism, Pak was relieved of his position and sent back to the National Police Agency, he added.

Pak bought 624 square meters of land in Taegu in 1978 and 1983 and built a four-story building and filling station on the site in 1992. He was Taegu police chief in 1991.

He owns a five-story commercial building sitting on 361 square meters of land in Samsong-tong, Kangnam-ku, Seoul. He bought the land in 1979 and put up the building in 1980, when he was presidential secretary for justice under President Chon Tu-hwan.

Another Chongwadae staffer in trouble is presidential secretary for women's affairs Chong Ok-sun, who is suspected of speculating with 12,540 square meters of farmland in Yoju, Kyonggi Province. She registered property of 1.4 billion won, fourth largest in the presidential secretariat.

Chong will be told to resign if she is found to have gotten rich through property speculation, the official said.

Government Reshuffles Two Vice Ministers

SK0609094693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0923 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 6 (YONHAP)—The government on Monday removed Vice Construction Minister Yi Kon-yong and Vice Health and Social Affairs Minister Choe Su-pyong.

Named to succeed them were First Assistant Construction Minister Yu Sang-yol and Assistant Health-Social Affairs Minister for Planning and Management Chu kyong-sik, respectively.

A source said Vice Minister Yi had hearing difficulties. And, continued presence of Choe in his office was deemed not desirable at a time of deteriorating disputes between pharmacists specializing in Western and Oriental medicines because his wife is a pharmacist for Western drugs.

* Law Group Demands Ouster of Political Judges

932C0179A Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 15 Jul 93 pp 22-24

[Article by reporter Yi Chang-won]

[Text] On 1 July a major reorganization and restructuring of the Supreme Court and the Justice Department, to include removal of the current leadership in those offices, was requested by the Tae-Han Lawyers Association. This action came about based upon a recently released report prepared by independent judges of the Seoul district civil courts, regarding their opinions about reform of the Justice Department.

Special targets are those judges who, the lawyers' association says, gave into political pressure during the administrations of the Fifth and Sixth Republics. These judges, whom the lawyers' association have demanded be removed, are alleged to have given into political pressure and passed inconceivable judgements and to have controlled and manipulated the "emergency situation" trials. It is believed that this action by the lawyers' association has come about because of admissions made by the Justice Department concerning involvement by the department in the "shameful history" and has resulted in these "political judges" becoming targets for removal.

Although the lawyers' association did not name names, one official of the lawyers' association did say that judges who held the positions of chief and assistant chief justice for the Seoul District Criminal Court could be used as examples of political judges. Of those two, especially the assistant chief justice of the Seoul District Criminal Court during the Fifth Republic had the responsibility of overseeing the other judges and as such was used by the authorities (the National Security Planning Agency, the Public Prosecutor, and others) as a lobbying tool. Because of that, persons who held that office have become a concentrated target.

Major incidents, emergencies, and political cases, for the most part, were handled during the Fifth Republic by the assistant chief justice of the Seoul District Criminal Court. Because whoever held this office was known unofficially as the security chief of the court, judges called it "the position of ridicule." Because this office is second in position to the chief justice, the assistant chief justice acts as an adviser to the chief justice, and handles administrative tasks. Assistant justices of the High Court were higher than justices of the District Court, and so, generally acted as deputies of the assistant chief justice of the Seoul District Criminal Court.

During the Fifth Republic, concerning important emergency cases, public security prosecutors would go straight to the assistant chief justice's home and receive "secret warrants." Also, if the case was important enough, public security agents would see the assistant chief justice, and before the verdict had even been reached would apply indirect pressure by asking that he "look after this case."

In fact, the people appointed to assistant chief justice were, in general, thoroughly loyal to the national establishment with very conservative dispositions. And, because the vast majority of assistant chief justices were later chosen to become justices of the Supreme Court, this was a much coveted position in legal circles.

With the advent of the Sixth Republic, the naked oppression of the Fifth Republic disappeared. But, it is alleged that the assistant chief justice, where important cases are concerned, would call the judge presiding over the case to ask how the situation was progressing, etc., and by showing his concern create psychological pressure. During the Sixth Republic, the Reverend Mun Ik-hwan's illegal North Korean visit, the Su-so scandal, and the national security agent blacklist, were all cases handled by the assistant chief justice.

During the Fifth Republic, the office of chief justice of the Seoul District Criminal Court was a very key position, as it was as good as a guarantee of a later appointment to the Supreme Court. Although ability was certainly a consideration when appointing a supreme court justice, many in the legal world say that the appointments were also used as a reward for doing the dirty work.

One lawyer, a member of Attorneys for a Democratic Society, said, "When we look at what happened during the reform we can clearly see the role that the Chief Justice of the Seoul District Criminal Court had, and that this really was the dark ages of the Justice Department".

It is said that, at that time, one independent criminal court judge, during a political trial, planned to render a verdict of not guilty. When the Chief Justice found this out, he went that night with some security agents to see the presiding judge in his chambers, and confirmed the not-guilty verdict. The next day the Chief Justice blocked the not-guilty ruling and had a tax investigation started on the judge's in-law's business. With this and other pressure the Chief Justice was able to get the verdict changed to guilty.

One member of the lawyers' association pointed out that, other than this, there are many reasons that independent judges of the Seoul District Criminal Court can be included in this circle of political judges. Criminal Court independent judges have only about 10 years of experience on the bench, and generally judge minor cases not important enough to go before the Council. During the Sixth Republic, and the Fifth Republic to be sure, there are almost no cases of persons from Ho-nam being appointed, and as a result, there is even criticism of premeditated prejudice in regard to place of origin.

One person connected with the prosecutor's office said he knew that, to become an independent judge, one had to go through a rigorous screening process, and if it was believed the individual might go his own way pronouncing not-guilty verdicts, withdrawing warrants, or if there were a possibility that he would make trouble, etc., that person was excluded from consideration. In fact, just recently when judges released their proposal, no independent criminal court judges participated. Neither did they participate in 1988 when petitioning judges signed the "Declaration for Reform of the Judicial Department".

One petitioning judge of the Seoul District Civil Court analyzing the situation said; "Of course the nature of independent judges of the criminal court is one thing, but, because they were directly responsible for these criminal cases in question, it puts them in a difficult position to express their opinion."

Meanwhile, as the lawyers association released its resolution, An Wu-man, court administrator, strongly stated: "Neither now, nor in the past have there ever been any political judges and neither will there be any in the future."

One person connected with the lawyers' association responded, "If the Judicial Department continues to show no sign of repentance we will make public a list of the 20 to 30 names of political judges." People in the legal world, however, believe that, rather than dealing a fatal blow to those judges who are involved by releasing a list of names, it is much more likely that the announcement will lean more toward listing incidents and cases. For instance, representative cases where the judge passed a judgment contrary to his own opinion or against his will.

Specifically, the lawyers' association lists the following verdicts as examples of problem cases.

In 1990, the Supreme Court related to the Fifth Republic scandal, reversed the original ruling concerning former President Chon Tu-hwan's brother-in-law, Yi Chang-sok and permitted him to make bail. This caused quite a commotion in legal circles for two reasons: 1) To release a defendant on bail from the Supreme Court, where the appeal was presented, was unprecedented; and 2) This was done before the appointment of the new Supreme Court Chief Justice. A few months after this appeal, Judge Yu Kun-chong, who had arrested Yi, was stripped of his office. Judge Yu was a High Court justice who before this incident had been an almost certain candidate for a Supreme Court nomination.

Other questionable cases include that of Kang Ki-kun, who was accused and convicted of forging a will, and the case that resulted in a sentence of probation for National Security agents convicted of spreading black propaganda during the 14th general election. Both were verdicts that, people in legal circles point out, were handed down as a result of pressure from the prosecutor and political powers.

Another unconvincing sentence is that of the death sentence given to Chong Tong-yon, former President of the Bok student group at Chonnam College, who was convicted for his participation in the Kim Tae-chung insurrection plot. Even though when the uprising for the democratization of Kwangju occurred, 18 May, he had already been arrested and detained on the day before, the 17th. He was sentenced to death as a ringleader in the rebellion.

In 1980, there were also conflicting opinions, among the Supreme Court Justices, concerning whether or not the charge of treason in the May 1980 Supreme Court public hearing of the appeal by former Central Intelligence Chief, Kim Chae-kyu, was justified. Kim Chae-kyu was convicted of treason in connection with the 1980 assassination of President Pak Chong-hi.

It is said that at the time the new military authorities went to the home of Supreme Court Chief Justice Yi Yung-sop and put pressure on him, and also did not hesitate to use bribes and coercion on another Supreme Court Justice. There were, however; six Justices who did not give into their threats and voiced the minority opinion of "no evidence of treason". Later all six were stripped of their positions. A major contrast, on the other hand, are Supreme Court Justices, Yu Tae-hung and Kim Yong-chol, who at the time voiced the majority opinion, and later, under the Fifth Republic, alternated as Chief Justice.

In 1979, New People Party Leader, Kim Yong-sam, was forbidden to continue to administer as Party Leader, this is another ruling that has attracted much criticism from the opposition. Then Assistant Chief Justice, C, upheld the lower ruling and divested Kim of his position. Afterward Kim went into practice as a lawyer and became the first or second most popular lawyer in Korea. Just recently however, he has become the object of a federal tax investigation.

Another incident is that of November 1985, when the Civil Government Party's Central Political Science Academy was occupied in a sit down strike by 190 students who were arrested. As always, the Seoul District Criminal Court arrested all of the students without exception, and it is another trial that is remembered with shame. Especially when it is considered that during the Fifth Republic, the sentence for students inciting riots was so uniform, no matter what court they were tried in. If the prosecutor requested a sentence of 3 to 5 years, the judge would, in the majority of cases, cut the sentence in half, and sentence the convict to anywhere from a year and a half to two years six months in prison. One lawyer said regarding these "mechanical sentences" "It was like pushing the button on a soda machine and watching the soda can come tumbling out" and so these cases were criticized as; "vending machine sentences".

In September 1985, then Chief Justice, Yu Tae-hung rebuked Judge Pak She-hwan, of the Inchon District Court, for handing down a not guilty verdict concerning a case involving students arrested in connection with their involvement in the emergency situation. District Court Judge Pak She-hwan was reprimanded and transferred to the provinces. After this, when another judge, So Tae-yong, of the Seoul Civil Court, criticized the action in a legal magazine, he also was censured and transferred. This generated much public criticism. Eventually, Chief Justice Yu was asked to resign from the lawyers' association and not only that but he also suffered the disgrace of being the first person ever to be removed from his position as Supreme Court Chief Justice by the National Assembly. At the time of the emergency situation, younger judges of the Seoul District Criminal Court repeatedly revoked emergency warrants, but the older senior judges created a policy that only they could handle the task of warrants and immediate hearings.

Mainstream members of the judiciary, however; say that at that time, it wouldn't have mattered who was in the position, the result would have been the same. They insist that arguing for or against a judge's decision after it has been made, only acts as an obstruction of justice, because such criticism makes it much more difficult for a judge to follow his convictions.

* Young Judges Begin Judicial Reform Movement

* Suggested Reforms

932C0183A Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 15 Jul 93 pp 26- 27

["Text" of "Our Opinion on Judicial Reform," a recommendation submitted to the Supreme Court on 26 June by single judges of the Seoul District Civil Court"—first two paragraphs are CHUGAN CHOSON introduction]

[Text] **On 26 June judges of sing-judge jurisdictions at the Seoul District Civil Court submitted "Our Opinion on Judicial Reform" to the Supreme Court. This written opinion, adopted by 28 out of the 40 single judges of the Seoul District Civil Court (with 10 against and two abstaining), is causing a sensation inside and outside the judiciary.(med)**

Explaining the reasons for submitting the written opinion, the judges said, we are writing this letter while "doing penance, with a wretched feeling, before history and the people who are reproaching the judiciary with its past cowardice." The following is the text of "Our Opinion on Judicial Reform" submitted by single judges of the Seoul District Civil Court, which is likely to create a stir throughout the judiciary.

26 June 19993

From: Single Judges of the Seoul District Civil Court

To: Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

On Our View on Judicial Reform

At a time when reform is under way to liquidate negative residues of the past in every aspect of society, the judiciary convened a national conference of court presidents on 3 May to outline concrete institutional reform tasks, highlighting the need for judicial reform. Subsequently, after going through the process of gathering the opinions of judges on institutional reform, the second conference of court presidents was held on 7 June to discuss detailed measures for institutional reform.

In this process we, single judges, while sharing the view, as aired by the chief justice, that "the judicial reform plans discussed so far are only a part and a beginning," have reached a consensus of opinion that unless the root causes which necessitate judicial reform are delved into prior to any discussion of concrete reform measures, a true reform of our judicial branch is impossible and no institutional reform will attain its intended goals.

Therefore, before the people, who although watching the move for judicial reform with much expectation, are skeptical about the determination of the judiciary to reform, we wish to look back upon our fault, that is, the past failure of the judiciary to discharge its duty as a constitutional institution which guarantees the fundamental democratic order and the basic rights of the citizens. In so doing, we wish to make this reflection a starting point for examining the root causes that make reform a necessity.

Our modern history is just coming at the end of a long dark tunnel of the authoritative rule based on physical coercion. We, the judiciary, have just initiated a move to find its original self at the end of this long tunnel. But the public is still watching the judiciary with a distrustful eye; and we fearfully admit the fact that we cannot be free from stern public reproach.

When the political force of the state tramples upon the basic democratic order and the basic rights of the citizens in the name of law, the judiciary, whose primary duty is to safeguard the basic democratic order and the basic rights, must defiantly declare that "such act is not justice." But our judiciary in the past remained silent in stead of making such declaration, and was impotent before the contemporary political power that forced it to declare that "it is justice." Some may try to vindicate such silence and incompetence by saying that they were inevitable under the circumstances in those days, or by saying that it represented the exercise of judicial power under the law. But the history of justice tells us that the reason for existence of the judiciary lies in protecting by "law" the basic democratic order and the basic rights of the citizens from an institutional force precisely under such circumstances which seem beyond control. Yet, our judiciary looked away from its reason for existence and at times played the role of compounding, rather than finding basic solutions to, the contemporary conflict in which political and social contradictions clashed against one another.

Under such circumstances, we were frustrated and driven into self-scorn and defeatism at times while trying to justify our impotence by giving the prevailing circumstances as an excuse, and at other times our courage was foiled by internal and external control, and still at other times we readily swam with the current by acting according to our "own judgement." Judges remained silent when they should speak up with their judgment, and spoke with their judgment when they should not, or turned their back to the truth behind the shield of judgement. The judiciary was isolated and its branches distrusted one another, and kept a distance from one another, and controlled one another. In the end the authority of the judiciary found itself in the sorry state in which it was unable to maintain its authority even at the court, and the public distrust in the court almost turned into scorn. The scornful distrust of the citizens in the judiciary—the suspicion that the justice no longer stated what justice is, nor punished injustices, nor told wrong from right—made them begin to cast doubts upon all judgements the court made. Things came to such a path that people began to look upon judges with skeptical eyes and refused to recognize the authority of the court even in civil litigations.

Amid all this criticism, misunderstanding, and reproach, we have come to the conclusion that we must humbly recognize the fact that we judges ourselves should be held responsible. Now, while doing penance with a wretched feeling before history and the people who are reproaching the judiciary for its past cowardice, we have come to believe that only by going through the process of ruminating on the causes, inside and outside the judiciary, of its failure to do its duty as the last bastion of human rights and democracy, is it possible to make the reform of the judiciary proceed in the right direction.

From our basic stand that the ultimate direction of reform in the judiciary should be set on the basis of self-reflection and the outcome of an examination of the fundamental reasons for reform, we wish to reiterate our opinion on the tasks for judicial reform, with the hope that the basic purport of reform, namely, the purpose of creating a sound legal device in the judiciary to prevent past mistakes from recurring, may be fully reflected in the institutional reform plans.

1. On Improving the Personnel Administration System for Judges

The constitution and the court organization law, while ensuring that the chief justice of the Supreme Court resist any outside meddling in personnel affairs concerning judges, provide for internal legal devices which guaranteeing the judges their status as judges so that they may pass their judgments according to the constitution and their conscience. When we look back upon our past, we notice that our judicial system swayed when judges came under undue pressure from political authorities, or when the chief justice of the Supreme Court failed to secure a stand strong enough to resist such pressure, or the judiciary itself failed to muster a united might against such pressure. In light of this experience in the past, we think that in improving the character of the judiciary and building a judicature trusted by the people, it is necessary to impose some reasonable restrictions on the personnel management right of the chief justice of the Supreme Court, from the composition of the Supreme Court at the top to the personnel administration of lower courts below. Therefore, we believe that as a concrete step, careful consideration should be given to the following measures: making the committee on the personnel affairs of judges a decision-making organization; creating a device that will enable the opinions of all judicial officials to be reflected in choosing this committee; and decentralizing the right of personnel administration so that the president of each court at all levels may have the authority to choose judges for the court under his charge.

2. On Ways To Prevent the Judiciary From Becoming Bureaucratic

The minutely divided rank and grade system for judges, particularly the promotion system, tended to intensify the tendency for stratification and bureaucratism in the judiciary, leading to the establishment of an order based on ranking in this branch of government and occasionally resulting in restraints in the independent exercise of the judicial jurisdiction, because judges had to think about the burden of their judgements on their promotion. This system has been used as an effective method for controlling the judaical branch internally, and it became a cause of intensification of the internal antagonism and squabbles.

Therefore, in considering steps to readjust or abolish the rank and grade system, an approach should be made from the standpoint of resolving those points at issue. Yet, the measures to abolish or readjust the rank and grade system currently under study give weight to the effective personnel management for the members of the judiciary, with the first priority given to abolishing the senior judges system for the district courts. For this reason, we feel that these proposed measures are somewhat off the track from our basic stand mentioned above. Therefore, in our opinion, the method for readjusting or abolishing the current rank and grade system should be reviewed by focusing on the rank and grade system for the senior judges of the high courts, where problems concerning the promotion system have surfaced most strikingly. Further, continuing discussions should be made of the question of creating a legal device that will enable judges to work until their retirement with a firm conviction and without regard to promotion.

3. On the Direction for Institutionalizing the Council of Judges

In operating the courts in a democratic way, merely institutionalizing the council of judges is not enough, and weight should be given to creating a structure in which judges can freely express their will concerning the operation of the courts, and which can reflect such free will. Therefore, a council of judges which will be established in the future should have a trait fundamentally different from the informal conference of judges in the past. From this standpoint, it is necessary to give a serious thought to the possibility of establishing an autonomous council of judges consisting of judicial officers in a lateral relationship with one another, as well as a national council of judges consisting of the heads of the courts nationwide. In our view, it is also necessary to guarantee some important rights, such as the right to convene the council of judges, the right to submit an agenda, the voting right, and the right to make recommendations.

4. On Gathering the Opinions of Judicial Officers Regarding Reform Measures

The reform of the judiciary is not something that can be achieved overnight, but it needs to proceed continually. From this point of view, we hope that opportunities will be provided to have the opinions of all judicial officers reflected continually in the future process of studying reform plans for the judiciary, through an appropriate methods and procedures. If possible, a measure may be considered by which to keep judges by appropriate steps abreast with the concrete direction, substance, and schedule of reform plans being studied by the Supreme Court, gather their opinions, and reflect them in reform plans.

The wind we have raised from our earnest desire to recover the fallen trust of the judiciary through genuine reform has been misconstrued as a manifestation of position-oriented egoism out of greed to get a piece of the action, or as an out-of-the-ordinary action of the handful of judicial officers. Further, we even received the warning that we would be sternly called into question. While wondering if this misunderstanding might have been caused by differences in the basic stance toward the reform of the judiciary, we hope that our genuine desire for judicial reform will be accepted as such without being misinterpreted.

At this juncture, when the Supreme Court is pushing reform with an express determination for the reform of the judiciary, it may be more desirable for us to wait and see quietly the process of reform. Yet, we realize that the reform of the judiciary cannot and should not be swayed by the wind blowing from the outside and that we ourselves are at once the main subject and object of the reform. On the basis of this realization, we have come to express the opinion set forth above only out of our love for the judiciary and with a sense of being called to our duty as judges, while pledging ourselves to be reborn with the features of true judicial officers.

* Stir in Judiciary

932C0183B Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 1 July 93 p 4

[Article by reporters Chin Se-kun and Chong Chol-kun winding up reactions to the judicial reform proposal submitted by young judges]

[Text] In the wake of media reports on the statement [as published] of young judges of the Seoul District Civil Court demanding judicial reform, the judicial community in Socho-tong, Seoul, has shown keen concerns about the possible extent of the ramifications, although it views the demand as being different in nature from similar ones that caused shocks culminating in the resignation of the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Court authorities have been busy trying to minimize the ramification of the young judges' move for judicial reform. Senior judges of the Seoul High Court and the Seoul District Civil Court held separate meetings on 30 June to map out countermeasures. On the same evening, Judge Yi Chong-nak, president of the Criminal Court, met with judges handling single-judge criminal jurisdictions to explain the opinion of the senior officials of the court regarding the aforementioned move.

A senior judge of the High Court, expressed his misgivings in these words: "The demand of young judges has some justification. But at this juncture, when judicial reform work, including a measure to create a new personnel administration system for judges, is under way following the meetings of court presidents held on two occasions, such demand could hinder the reform work."

—The single judges of the Seoul District Civil Court had tried to keep their written opinions under wraps, but seeing that its summary was carried in newspapers, felt rather relieved. They reacted by saying, "Now that reports were released, we had better convey our stand more accurately."

Said some of them: "Anyone who has worked as a judge will know what each word in the written opinion means," adding, "Though we were careful in choosing words, the determination to press for a wholesale reform of the judiciary, which has lost its authority and is wandering, can be read clearly between the lines."

Some young judges evaluate the written opinion in question as a fine piece of writing. In particular, referring to the passage, "...remained silent when they should speak up with their judgment..." which newspapers used in the heading, young judges say that it is the finest example of a painful soul-searching on the behavior of the judiciary under the authoritarian rule in the past.

—Hearing reports that young judges demanded judicial reform, the Korean Bar Association and other lawyers organizations said, "In the past, when demands for judicial reform were made, the court—the leading component of the three judicial tiers, namely, the court, prosecution, and lawyers—have been in the doldrums." Lawyers expressed the hope that with the written opinion as a moment, a sweeping wind of renewal will rise in the courts.

A mid-standing lawyer said, "we have the impression that irregularities of lawyers have been the focus of judicial reform. However," he pointed out, "it is essential to get rid of those who rendered unprincipled decision after unprincipled decision fawning upon the authorities in power, and who still stay at the top of the courts."

—The atmosphere on 30 June at the Supreme Court and the Office of Court Administration under the Supreme Court—which had received the "written opinion" submitted by single judges of the Seoul District Civil Court demanding soul-searching by the judiciary and judicial reform—was such that it apparently looked offended by the "impertinence", although it showed "composure" on the surface.

Cho Chae-hang, deputy director of the Office of Court Administration, said: "The ideas contained in the written opinion of young judges are the same as those which the Supreme Court and the Office of Court Administration have already been studying. Speaking of the procedure by which the opinion was submitted, it poses no problem at all because the letter was submitted to the Supreme Court as an internal document with the approval of the president of the court to which they belong." He clearly said, "the opinion will be used as reference in the judicial reform work currently under way." So, he indicated that no stern disciplinary measure against the group action is in the cards.

However, some senior judicial officers at the Office of Court Administration, expressed their personal view in these words: "The recommendation in question is nothing but the opinion of only 28 of the single judges at the Seoul District Civil Court; and associate judges of the Collegiate Court and the Court of Appeals were not included. It is the opinion of only 30 percent of the total 1,153 judges." Thus they played down the value of the recommendation.

—Analyzing the significance of the "written opinion" of single judges of the Seoul District Civil Court, some lawyers said: "After the 'banner' demanding self-reflection on the part of the judiciary was raised, 80 or more new judges began to be appointed to the bench each year. The written opinion reflects the pent up dissatisfaction felt by those who became judges after passing the 23d or subsequent state law examinations with the way their personnel affairs have been handled."

A judge who was appointed to the bench after passing the 19th state law examination said, "Where can you find an organization in which not a single voice of complaint is heard about any of the policies of the officers at the top? However," he added, "to adopt an unsigned statement to air their complaint is a behavior unworthy of judges because it is an act of making a caricature of the judiciary before the public."

—On 30 June when the contents of the written opinion was carried by media, young judges at the Southern Branch of the Seoul District Civil Court, the most progressive-minded among the four branches in Seoul, gathered in judges' rooms to exchange their views in a very tense atmosphere, amid the anticipation that the repercussions of the written opinion will spread throughout the entire judiciary.

Commenting on the written opinion of the Seoul District Civil Court, a single judge at the Criminal Court said, "I fully agree with its substance and purport." An associate judge at the Collegiate Civil Court welcomed the said opinion in these words: "I feel that the demand by judges of the Seoul main court for judicial reform and soul-searching has come rather belatedly."

Conveying the atmosphere among young judges at the Southern Branch, an associate judge at the branch criminal court said, "Judges here are expected to express their views in one way or the other on 1 July at the earliest, or on 2 July at the latest, to provide Southern Branch-wide support."

Ministry Checking Military Reserves, Facilities

SK2808044693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0154 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 28 (YONHAP)—A special six-week inspection of all military facilities projects will begin in mid-September, a Defense Ministry official said on Saturday.

A ministry special inspection group headed by Lt. Gen. Chang Pyong-yong will screen all stages of military facilities projects, including construction already under way, the official said.

Emphasis will be on facilities related to the welfare of non- commissioned officers and enlisted men such as housing, much of which is known to be dilapidated.

The aim is to expel irregularities linked to military projects and work out basic steps to improve the open bidding for military projects and streamline their execution, the official said.

The inspection group in the past examined military facilities projects over which suspicion of irregularities arose, but this is the first time the group will conduct such an extensive probe.

Meanwhile, to map out steps to improve the reserve forces system, the inspection group has been checking the organization, operation and supplies of the reserve forces.

The need of a better reservist system was voiced in the wake of the death of a nearly score of reservists and active duty soldiers in an explosion on an army artillery training range near Yonchon in June.

Army Denies Promotions to Former Aljahoe Members

SK0709085193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0830 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 7 (YONHAP)—Members of Aljahoe, a fraternity of Army officers similar to the now-defunct politically oriented group Hanahoe led by Chon Tu-hwan before he became president, have been denied promotions to majors and lieutenant colonels for damaging Army discipline.

The Army said on Tuesday that none of the 540 majors chosen for promotion belong to Aljahoe, which has 10 members among the 4,776 majors in the Army.

Last month, the Army omitted Aljahoe members from promotion to major.

This is considered the result of an Army decision to denounce any activity by a private group in the Army, and raises the possibility that former Hanahoe members will not be elevated to brigadier generals or colonels in promotions slated for October.

In recent promotions to lieutenant colonel, the Army omitted 57 of the members of the Korean Military Academy's [KMA] 37th class, a change from the practice of automatically promoting KMA-graduates up to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

As a result, the ratio of KMA graduates to non-KMA graduates in promotions to lieutenant colonel has changed from last year's 42.5- to-57.5 to 35.4-to-64.6 this year.

While those who participated in the Gulf war or U.N. peace- keeping operation in Somalia or rendered meritorious service in other areas have higher points for promotion, those involved in trouble, especially related to civilians, were given lower points, the Army said.

As in the case of screening candidates for promotion to major, the screening for promotion to lieutenant colonel was observed directly by 180 candidates.

* ROK Military Needs Morale Boost

932C0186A Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 16 Jul 93 p 5

[Article by former KMA [Korean Military Academy] chancellor Min Pyong-ton]

[Text] People are concerned about the economy and frequently say "a country will collapse if its economy collapses." It is needless to say that the economy is important. However, we overlook that "a country also will collapse if its military collapses" under the security circumstances we face.

I sense a crisis when I notice that the military has lost its morale and discipline.

After several incidents became known to the public recently, such as, bribery in promotion by a small number of former Navy, Air Force and Marine Corp heads, military corruption in the Yulgok Project, and the incident of the leaking of major military secrets, the people are surprised and furious with the collapse of ethics in the military, and military personnel are utterly discouraged with disgrace and the feeling of betrayal.

There is no doubt that these phenomena had abrupt and fatally bad effects upon military morale and dicipline, which are the two columns that support the military. Recently, 20 people were killed by an explosion while training at the Yonchon shooting range, and 13 drunken youths trespassed and ran their car around a military base in Ichun for two hours. These absurd and regretful incidents show neither the civilization nor democratization of the military, but merely indicate fallen morale and loss of military discipline.

At the beginning of the Sixth Republic, during the five-year transition period, the military should have considered the meaning of the transition period, its importance, and other hardships which could be expected to appear later, and should have put their efforts to preventing unrest in the military and knitting internal relationships tightly. In my opinion, things reached this state because the military, unfortunately, ignored and did not prepare for the transition.

The bigger the organization, the more important internal unity is, and this is a matter requiring immediate attention even today. Recently, there were reports that the Army has decided to change from a three screenings system to what amounts to a four screenings system in promotion screening this fall and that the Air Force also will change to a similar four screenings system.

The next head, or the head after that, might change to a five screenings system or a six screenings system. In fact, the guarantee of fairness in promotion screening depends on people with good character being appointed to the screening committee rather than whether there is one screening or four screenings.

The number one problem the Army heads have to solve now is to cure the loss of will among junior commanding officers in all units including company commanders. They say that it is hard for battalion commanders and regimental commanders to manage their units because some officers below the rank of major, even though it is only a small number, try to evade the company commander positions, which is a basic step in military career. People generally have no idea of the situation which the military staffs face, such as the severe housing problem, poor education for their children, a bad working environment, and the lack of expense account funds for commanding units, in addition to their small salaries.

Sometimes, commanding officers in lower units go into debt and have to use their own money during their tenure. Therefore, as salary earners, their difficult household financial situation is obvious.

The main cause, for the deterioration in the morale of battalion commanders is the reprimand following the occurrence of crimes and incidents.

The range and weight of punishment should be decided by taking account of the cause or motivation and the conduct of command. Nevertheless, sometimes they have been punished too severely out of "regret for making high level authorities be concerned" or for the sake of public opinion, in cases where higher authorities find out, or it gets widely reported. Of course, commanders are accustomed to the unwritten rule which regards "responsibility of command" as the fate of commanders.

The military is entrusted with personnel, a fair number of whom include youths who are not raised properly in their families and schools for 20 years and don't listen to what they are told and may even have committed crimes and incidents. If as a result of this an incident occurs, the severe reprimand given to commanders who received them just a few months ago makes young commanders too depressed to handle it, makes them lose their desire to work, and makes them have doubt about being career military officers.

At any rate, one should keep in mind the fact that the number of crimes and incidents of young officers and men is extremely small compared with those of the same age in civilian society, as a result of the hard effort of their commanding officers.

If morale drops, military discipline will loosen. The history of the fall of South Vietnam in which the South Vietnamese military, which had lost its morale, took the powerful, latest equipment from the United States troops who were withdrawing from their country but were defeated rapidly without a fierce fight by the North Vietnamese military, who had old-fashioned equipment but high morale, gives us a good lesson. Our military heads should concentrate all of their effort on boosting the morale of their men now. In addition, we have to draw a line between the small number of former military heads who have been criticized, and the faithful military personnel and give affection to those who are faithful.

Military men live on honor and fight with morale. At the present moment, the most urgent thing is to boost the morale of the military.

Burma

National Convention Plenary Session Continues

Member on Self-Administered Areas

BK0709092393 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1530 GMT 6 Sep 93

["Excerpts" of Panel of Chairmen's Review Report presented by panel member U Wan Tin at the National Convention Plenary Session at the President's House Compound in Rangoon on 6 September—recorded]

[Text] National Convention Delegates: The discussions by delegate groups concerning the formation of appropriate self- administered areas in the divisions and states if the need arises is already known. The National Convention delegate groups have clearly indicated in their respective presentations that the formation of appropriate self-administered areas in the divisions and states should be permitted.

In discussing the rights of self-administered areas, the delegate groups emphasized that if the desire for self administration is fulfilled it will boost national solidarity and help the perpetuation of national sovereignty. Moreover, the national races living together in unity and harmony in the area will be able to comply with the wishes of the majority and engage in activities relating to social matters concerning the wards, villages, and townships; their culture; and their traditions.

Therefore, a fundamental principle permitting the formation of appropriate self-administered areas in the divisions and states if and when the need arises should be included in the formulation of fundamental principles suitable to be included in drafting the new constitution.

Member Reports on Union Unity

BK0709092593 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1530 GMT 6 Sep 93

["Excerpts" of the Review Report by the Panel of Chairmen presented by panel member U Mya Sein at the National Convention Plenary Session held in the President's House Compound in Rangoon on 6 September—recorded]

[Text] National Convention Delegates: My presentations are a review of the facts concerning the preservation of the union presented by National Convention delegate groups. In reviewing these presentations, it could be clearly seen that National Convention delegate groups had suggested that no regions in Myanmar [Burma]—divisions, states, and self-administered areas—could ever be allowed to secede.

Therefore, a fundamental principle stating that no regions in Myanmar—divisions, states, and self-administered areas—could ever be allowed to secede from the nation, should be included in the formulation of fundamental principles which are suitable to be included in drafting the new constitution.

Member on Political System

BK0709092793 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1530 GMT 6 Sep 93

["Excerpts" of the review report from the Panel of Chairmen presented by panel member U James Bond at the National Convention Plenary Session held in the President's House Compound in Rangoon on 6 September—recorded]

[Text] National Convention Delegates: In reviewing the type of political system that should be used in the country, it could be noted that the National Convention delegate groups suggested the implementation of a genuine multiparty democracy system.

Therefore, a fundamental principle concerning the implementation of a genuine multiparty democracy system should be included in the formulation of fundamental principles for drafting the new constitution.

Member on Presidential System

BK0709093193 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1530 GMT 6 Sep 93

["Excerpts" of Panel of Chairmen's Review Report presented by panel member U Ba Han at the National Convention Plenary Session at the President's House Compound in Rangoon on 6 September—recorded]

[Text] National Convention Delegates: In reviewing the presentations by national convention delegate groups, it is evident that the presidential system of administration is preferred.

Therefore, in formulating the fundamental principle regarding the head of state, the fundamental principle that the president is the head of state and is elected by an electoral college should be included in the formulation of fundamental principles suitable to be included in drafting the new constitution.

Member on State Sovereignty

BK0709101793 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1530 GMT 6 Sep 93

["Excerpts" of Panel of Chairmen's Review Report presented by panel member U Tun Yin Law at the National Convention Plenary Session at the President's House Compound in Rangoon on 6 September—recorded]

[Text] National Convention Delegates: In reviewing the presentations by National Convention delegate groups on the sovereignty of the state, they clearly state that state power stems from the people and lies with the people. There should be division of power as much as possible when utilizing the three arms of power—legislative, administrative, and judiciary—on behalf of the people, using the checks and balances system.

Therefore, in formulating the fundamental principle regarding the sovereignty of the state, the following principles should be adopted: To declare that Myanmar [Burma] is an independent and sovereign nation; national sovereignty stems from the people and resides in the entire country; there should be division of power as much as possible when utilizing the three arms of power—legislative, administrative, and judiciary; and the checks and balances system should be used. The division of the three state powers should also be delegated to the divisions, states, and self- administered areas.

Member on Legislative Power

BK0709121993 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1530 GMT 6 Sep 93

["Excerpts" of the review report by the Panel of Chairmen presented by panel member U Tin U at the National Convention Plenary Session held in the President's House Compound in Rangoon on 6 September—recorded]

[Text] National Convention Delegates: In reviewing the presentations by National Convention delegate groups on the basic principle concerning a union parliament, which equally represents the seven divisions and the seven states, and a parliament which represent the entire people, the delegate groups had clearly stated the need for two central-level parliaments: one with equal representation by the seven divisions and the seven states and the other representing the people. The delegates also mentioned that the two parliaments could act as checks and balances on each other.

Legislative power should be shared and distributed among the Union Parliament and the divisional and state parliaments, and should be vested in accordance with this constitution to the self- administered areas. Therefore, a fundamental principle should be adopted to have two parliaments: the Union Parliament where election is based on population, and another parliament where equal delegates from the divisions and states are elected.

Member on Local Legislatures

BK0709130993 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1530 GMT 6 Sep 93

["Excerpts" of Panel of Chairmen's Review Report presented by panel member U Myo Thant at the National Convention Plenary Session at the President's House Compound in Rangoon on 6 September—recorded]

[Text] National Convention Delegates: In reviewing the presentation on a proposal by delegates to adopt a basic principle to have legislative assemblies in the seven divisions and the seven states, it could be seen that the delegates made the proposal in order to have the right to administer regional legislative affairs in the seven divisions and the seven states.

Therefore, a basic principle should be prescribed to have divisional legislatures in the seven divisions and state legislatures in the seven states.

National Convention Delegates: In reviewing the proposal on participation by Defense Services representatives in the legislature, the National Convention delegates have clearly indicated that it would be more beneficial to the country and the people to permit appropriate participation by Defense Services representatives in the legislature. They have proposed that a basic principle be adopted to include Defense Services representatives nominated by the commander in chief of the Defense Services in all levels of the legislature.

Therefore, a fundamental principle should be adopted for Defense Services representatives nominated by the commander in chief of the Defense Services to be included in the union legislature, divisional legislatures, and state legislatures as permitted by this constitution. With this I conclude for today the Panel of Chairmen's Review Report presented to the National Convention Plenary Session. [applause]

Chairman Reviews Union Status

BK0709121593 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1530 GMT 6 Sep 93

["Excerpts" of the Review Report by the Panel of Chairmen presented by Alternate Chairman U Thein Lwin at the National Convention Plenary Session held in the President's House Compound in Rangoon on 6 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission [NCCC], Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC], and Convention Delegates, I am very glad to see the members of the NCCC and the NCCWC, and the convention delegates attending the plenary session with good health. I would also like to extend my best wishes for the physical and mental well-being of the attendees of this plenary session.

Esteemed convention delegates, after satisfactory deliberations, the delegates presented their proposal papers on the formulation of fundamental principles to be laid down to write a firm constitution, which is as important as life for the country and the citizens, at the plenary session. First, I would like to thank all the delegates for their deliberations and presentations of suggestions, which were being carried out within the framework of the six objectives of the National Convention and which also include the three national objectives—preservation of the union, preservation of national solidarity, and perpetuation of national sovereignty—that are upheld by the people. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Convention Delegates: As you know, a total of 22 proposal papers on the formulation of fundamental principles to be laid down to write the constitution were presented and submitted by delegates from the eight delegate groups attending the National Convention. [passage omitted]

If we scrutinize these proposal papers, we can see that there are suggestions concerning the 14 topics as well as additional suggestions relating to these topics as recommended by the chairman of the NCCWC on 7 June 1993. To collectively analyze the proposed suggestions presented by these political parties and each delegate group, I will present, point by point, the most important extracts from the respective proposal papers as well as the excerpts of the additional suggestions relating to the fundamental principles of the state that should be added and proposed as basic principles. During my presentations, I will also present the basic principles that should be laid down for prescribing the fundamental principles of the state in accordance with the proposals made by the delegate groups.

Esteemed convention delegates, if we comprehensively analyze the basic principle of preservation of the union presented by the delegate groups, it can be seen that the delegate groups have clearly proposed the following: Since the national races have been residing side by side in weal and woe since time immemorial and have always resided amiably by joining hands together, the three national objectives should be adopted as a national policy while the preservation of the union, which all the countrymen must uphold, should be prescribed as a fundamental principle.

Member Reviews State Structure

BK0709144593 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1530 GMT 6 Sep 93

["Excerpts" of review report by the Panel of Chairmen presented by panel member Colonel Thaik Tun at the National Convention Plenary Session held in the President's House Compound in Rangoon on 6 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed Convention Delegates: You already know the desires and suggestions of all the delegate groups concerning the fundamental principles of the structure of the state and the formation of the regions in the state. If we summarize these proposals on the formation of the regions, we can see the following:

A. To form a union that is comprised of states and divisions, as prescribed previously;

B. To prescribe and form the present seven states and seven divisions into 14 states with equal status; to prescribe and form the present seven states and seven divisions into 14 regions with equal status;

C. To form a union with Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Chin, Bamah [Burmese], Mon, Arakan, and Shan national states;

(?D). To form the union with Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Chin, Bamah, Mon, Arakan, Shan, and Wa states;

E. To amend [the structure of the union] to include Wa state as a member state of the union, while keeping the present states and divisions as they are;

[passage omitted]

Esteemed Convention Delegates, if we comprehensively analyze the suggestions by the delegate groups, we can see that suggestions are made to prescribe the present seven states and seven divisions with equal status in structuring the state, and to form the state by adopting the Union system. Concerning the present states and divisions, we can see that some delegate groups have suggested that the states should be called by their present names. Some delegate groups have also suggested that states and divisions should be called regions, while there are some delegate groups who suggested they be called the states and divisions as they are today. They have also suggested that the name of the country should be the Republic of the Union of Myanmar [Burma].

After seriously taking the delegate groups' suggestions under consideration, the following will be adopted as basic principles in laying down the fundamental principles of the structure of the state. The nation shall be called the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The nation shall be formed and established based on the union system. To prescribe that the country's boundary is the same as the boundary stipulated in the state Constitution on the day of its ratification. To prescribe the present seven divisions as regions [the preceding word rendered in English] and the present seven states as states [the preceding word rendered in English]. To prescribe that these seven regions and states have equal status.

Esteemed Convention Delegates, if we comprehensively analyze the delegate groups' suggestions concerning the renaming of the present names of the states and divisions with historical names, we can see that the delegates from the states and divisions attending the national convention have suggested that the present names of their states and divisions should be used. They suggested that using the present names will not affect national solidarity. By renaming them, it would be difficult to explain to people in the regions where travelling is difficult and the literacy rate is low; it would take a long time to make them understand. The seven states and seven divisions should be called either regions or states. The present names should be used for these regions and states. If one of these regions or the states needs to be renamed, it should be done after seeking a referendum from the people residing in the respective region or state. We see that the delegates' suggestions are very befitting. We believe that these suggestions will not affect the three national objectives: the nondisintegration of the union, the nondisintegration of national solidarity, and the perpetuation of national sovereignty, which we always revere and uphold. That is why, we find that a policy should be prescribed to use the present names for the regions and the states in accordance with the delegates' suggestions. A policy to prescribe a provision, which allows the renaming of the region or the state after seeking a referendum from the people residing in the respective region or state should there be any need, should also be implemented.

Meeting Ends 7 Sep Session; To Continue 8 Sep

BK0709150393 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Excerpts] The National Convention Plenary Session was held at 1000 this morning in the Central Meeting Hall at the President's House compound on Ahlone Road, Yangon [Rangoon]. It was attended by Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission [NCCC]; Lt. Gen. Maung Thint and Brigadier General Myo Thant, NCCC vice chairmen; NCCC members; U Aung Toe, chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC]; U Tha Tun, NCCWC vice chairman; NCCWC members; Brig. Gen. Tin Aye, chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee [NCCMC] and NCCMC members; National Convention delegates, and local and foreign journalists. [passage omitted]

The morning session of the meeting recessed for lunch at 1135. When the meeting resumed at 1240, panel member U Thein Lwin explained and presented a review of the principle of giving the defense services responsibility to safeguard the three national objectives: the preservation of the union, the preservation of national solidarity, and perpetuation of national sovereignty. Next, panel member U James Bond presented the evaluation on allowing the defense services to independently administer their own affairs. Panel member U Tun Yin Law then presented an assessment on the fundamental principle making the commander in chief of the defense services as head of all armed organizations. Panel member U Tin U presented the evaluation concerning the Lawkapala [eternal] principles of justice, freedom, and equality. Finally, panel member U Myo Thant presented a review on the fundamental principles concerning citizenship, naturalized citizenship, revoking citizenship, and principles of freedom. The plenary session concluded at 1405.

The National Convention Plenary Session will continue at 1000 on 8 September.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

UN Peacekeepers Leave for Bosnia 7 Sep

BK0809094593 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] The first group of 21 Malaysian Armed Forces officers have left for Bosnia to serve with the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina (UNPROFOR). The two lieutenant colonels, four captains, and 15 majors left Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang last night and are expected to reach Bosnia this evening. Fifteen of them are from the Army, three from the Air Force, and three from the Navy.

The officers were seen off by the Assistant Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Rear Admiral Datuk Haron Datuk Mohamed Taib. Datuk Haron said the officers will serve in Bosnia for between six and 12 months, depending on requirement by the United Nations.

The second batch of 21 personnel are expected to leave for Bosnia on the 21st of this month.

Thai Envoy on Workers' Restrictions in ASEAN

BK0709125193 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] On 6 September, Thai Ambassador to Malaysia Suraphong Posayanon called for the removal of restrictions by ASEAN countries on the import of workers from fellow members of ASEAN, which includes Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore. He said the unrestricted import of workers is necessary and will enable ASEAN countries to mobilize their resources fully for common use in order to develop their respective economies.

The Thai ambassador said that at present about 90,000 Thai workers, including those in the farming sector, are employed in Malaysia. These workers do not pose a problem to Malaysian national security, and they help to alleviate the labor shortage in that country. He said Thai workers are disciplined and well-trained. Several thousand Thais work in Singapore, as do workers from Indonesia and the Philippines.

Officials on Growing Services Trade in ASEAN

BK0609105593 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0846 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sept 6 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Trade in services between ASEAN countries has been rising and there is enormous potential for further expansion, say two Malaysian government officials.

The share of services to total output tended to rise with income level, said Finance Ministry's Secretary General Mohamed Sheriff Kassim and Secretary to the Economic International Division Dr Sulaiman Mahbob.

The higher the level of economic development, the higher the contribution of services to total production, they said in a joint paper on trade in services in ASEAN presented at the 18th annual conference of the Federation of ASEAN Economic Associations here Monday.

The share of services to total output ranged from 35 percent for income countries to 47 percent among lower middle income countries, 54 percent among higher middle income countries and over 60 percent for industrialised economies.

In 1980, for example, services already accounted for 40 percent of output in Thailand, 39 percent in Malaysia, 32 percent in Indonesia, 62 percent in Singapore and 40 percent in the Philippines.

Mohamed Sheriff and Dr Sulaiman said the level of intraregional trade had risen 180 percent to U.S$64.7 billion in 1991 from U.S.$23.1 billion.

One major concern in services is the significant deficits in the current account of the balance of payments, with the exception of Singapore, indicating the tradable level of services output of ASEAN members is still low despite their prominent shares in national gross domestic product (GDP).

They said economic cooperation among the ASEAN members was increasing and further cooperation would be made difficult without further enhancing intraregional trade in services.

They added that cooperation at the regional level should be led by the private sector but ASEAN governments should commit to providing the environment and condition for encouraging such cooperation.

As a start, Mohamed Sheriff and Dr Sulaiman said cooperation could be initiated in freight and shipping as all the ASEAN members, except Singapore, registered large deficits in transportation services.

An ASEAN joint shipping project could be established where the transportation of exports and imports could be undertaken by an ASEAN shipping company, they said.

Cooperation, they added, should not be confined to government initiatives but the private sector too should initiate co-operative efforts, particularly in the financial sector.

They added that financial institutions in ASEAN countries should keep abreast with developments abroad and to assume a major role in facilitating trade and investment flows within the region and outside.

Cambodia

PDK Says France, Russia Plan To Maintain War

BK0509024693 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] France and Russia have sent delegations to Cambodia to arrange plans for the Vietnamese and their puppets to carry on their war in Cambodia.

News sources reported that on 28 August, France sent a military delegation to Phnom Penh from the French Defense Ministry led by a French colonel. At the same time, Russia sent a military delegation led by a colonel to Phnom Penh to meet Tie Banh and the other puppet ringleaders.

The report said that superficially, the French and Russian military delegations are said to have come to inspect the needs for a military buildup for the Provisional National Government of Cambodia. But in reality, why have the French and Russian military delegations come to Phnom Penh?

In fact, since signing the peace agreement, allies both inside and outside UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] together with the Vietnamese and their puppets have continued launching offensives against the resistance forces and Cambodian people. French, Russian, and U.S. officials in UNTAC have openly given assistance to the puppets by using helicopters to conduct intelligence work in the air and on the ground and to transport ammunition for the puppet troops to launch operations against the people and Democratic Kampuchea.

Loridon, ex-commander of the French UNTAC unit in Cambodia, openly declared when he was commander of UNAMIC [United Nations Advanced Mission in Cambodia] that he wanted to use 200 UNTAC troops to attack and seize Pailin from Democratic Kampuchea.

As for Russia, during the 13-year Vietnamese war of aggression, the former Soviet Union was the supplier of various weaponry for Vietnam to conduct a war to massacre the Cambodian nation and people. All large and small guns, tanks, aircraft, and warships currently being used by the Vietnamese puppets belong to the Soviet Union or Russia.

Although the United Nations has now instructed all UNTAC forces to withdraw from Cambodia at the end of September, the allies still do not want to leave Cambodia. Recently, they made all-out efforts together with the Vietnamese puppets to launch offensives against the Cambodian people and Democratic Kampuchea. But they are disappointed with the outcome of those offensives. This is why the allies are busily bringing all forms of help to the Vietnamese puppets in order to continue kindling the flames of war at the end of this 15th rainy season and coming 16th dry season.

The Cambodian people have this opinion: You, UNTAC people, have bred so many bad seeds in Cambodia; you are leaving now, so you must take all the bad seeds with you; you should let the Cambodians reconcile among themselves in line with the prince father's plan.

PDK Radio Questions Use of Foreign Aid

BK0409102193 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 3 Sep 93

["Article": "Is Foreign Money for Achieving National Reconciliation and Peace To Rebuild the Country or Is It for Killing the Cambodian Nation and People?"]

[Text] This is the question to which the entire Cambodian nation and people have paid great attention. There have been reports that some foreign countries have given this and that number of millions of dollars to the provisional government for building this and that. What is the true nature of this money?

To see the true nature of this money, one must take a good look at the policy of the donors of this money. Some foreigners have a strategic policy to resolutely and persistently oppose Cambodia's national reconciliation. They say that they would give money to any Cambodian parties that are willing to eliminate the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and that they would not give any money in the event that Cambodians reach genuine national reconciliation. Why, then, do these foreigners give money to some Cambodians? Is it to promoting national reconciliation and peace to rebuild the country or is it for killing the Cambodian nation and people?

The prince father head of state has repeatedly proposed a plan to convene a roundtable meeting to enable Cambodians to meet and discuss his national reconciliation plan and the PDK's two-point proposal. However, this plan has been repeatedly opposed by and blocked by Vietnam, Vietnam's puppets, and allies. The allies in particular have used money as a means to buy some broke Cambodians to oppose the prince father's national reconciliation plan.

1. Before leaving for a visit to Pyongyang on 13 July the prince father set a date for convening an inter-Cambodian roundtable meeting to achieve national reconciliation among all Cambodian parties, including the PDK. At that time, the allies were in great panic, particularly the United States, France, and Australia. These countries' motto is to use money as an important tool to counter the prince father's national reconciliation plan.

The United States in particular dispatched a high-ranking special envoy named Winston Lord to ASEAN countries and to Phnom Penh to threaten others, saying that the United States will not provide financial aid if Democratic Kampuchea takes part in national reconciliation.

This issue has brought strong opposition from national and international public opinion, which favors national reconciliation. Thailand in particular, and other ASEAN countries have clearly stated their stance calling on the prince head of state to play a role in national reconciliation without discarding any party and without allowing foreign interference in Cambodia's internal affairs.

The Cambodian people in general—peasants, big and small traders, students, pupils, and even soldiers, policemen, and civil servants of Vietnam's puppet regime—also vigorously opposed those who want to split the nation. Everyone agrees to choose national reconciliation if they have to choose between money and national reconciliation. They say that as long as Cambodians are reconciled, the nation will have peace. Through this, people in all social strata will have a chance to peacefully earn a living through various professions.

Faced with this situation, those who oppose national reconciliation clearly realize that if they continue to openly oppose national reconciliation, they will lose politically and be further disgraced as far as local and foreign opinions are concerned.

2. Since then, the allies have switched strategies, from loudly opposing national reconciliation to quietly carrying out activities using money to buy some Cambodians so they can divide Cambodians. What are the allies' other methods of using money to oppose national reconciliation?

a. Everyone knows that allies within and outside UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] have made great efforts to find money to sustain the structure set up by Vietnam, particularly troops and policemen. What is the truth about this?

The fact is that some of the money that has been secured has been used by allies, Vietnam, and Vietnam's puppets to buy, hire, and bring in cruel Vietnam's puppet leaders and others, who are hungry for dollars, into the plan to kill the Cambodian nation and people.

From early August onward, the allies, in cooperation with Vietnam and the puppets, have launched offensives against the people and Democratic Kampuchea's forces to serve the objective of destroying national reconciliation.

However, they are now receiving the opposite results. Militarily, they cannot do anything to Democratic Kampuchea; on the contrary, the people in all circles have become more angry. Puppet troops are angry and are expressing their opposition everywhere. Money has not reached the troops; it has already been shared among the leaders and UNTAC. This has greatly angered the troops, who are restless and are rising up to kill these leaders daily.

3. Now the money, said to be salary for troops and police during the transitional period, has nearly been exhausted. The prince father head of state has decided to convene the roundtable meeting on 3 September.

In such a situation, the allies have searched for more money to bribe Vietnam's puppet leaders to continue opposing the roundtable meeting because they have no other means apart from using money. It is normal that, as puppets and traitors to the nation, these guys have no national and popular ideals. Anyone who is willing to give them money can do everything to them.

As for the entire Cambodian nation and people, they want only national reconciliation in accordance with the prince father's plan. Peace and justice-loving countries do not want foreigners to meddle with Cambodians. Peace and justice-loving countries want Cambodians reconciled so that Cambodia is peaceful, and so is the region. Through this, these countries will have an opportunity do business, invest, and assist in rebuilding Cambodia in a secure atmosphere of peace and stability.

Indonesia

Editorial on South China Sea Multilateral Ties

BK0709155593 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 24 Aug 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Cooperation in the South China Sea"]

[Text] Indonesia has hosted three previous workshops on managing potential conflicts in the South China Sea, and the current workshop is the fourth meeting. The informal meeting was held in Surabaya, 23-25 August 1993, and was attended by representatives from the six ASEAN member countries, the PRC, Taiwan, Laos, and Vietnam. Canada, which supported the workshop, was represented by several resource persons.

A certain degree of progress has been achieved in efforts to prevent an outbreak of conflict in the region since the previous meetings were held in Bali in 1990, Bandung in 1991, and Yogyakarta in 1992. In fact, at the meeting in Yogyakarta last year, delegates agreed to set up two working groups of experts to prepare an assessment on resources and marine scientific research. Their reports have been submitted to the fourth workshop in Surabaya.

As we all know, of late, the strategic value and significance of the South China Sea continues to increase, either as a major shipping lane, or an international passage, or for tapping its marine resources.

On the other hand, we are taking note of the announcement made by China on 25 February 1992 regarding the law on the sovereignty and maritime boundary, which was then followed by the signing of an agreement between China with the American Crestion Oil Company on 8 May 1992.

Meanwhile, Malaysia, and Vietnam last year reached an accord on the Continental Shelf boundary in the South China Sea and the Layang-Layang Group of Islands to be developed into tourist locations by Malaysia. Such matters would definitely create an unfavorable condition to countries that are claimants to the island chains in the region. Such an unfavorable condition would also negatively affect efforts to apply proper management to any potential conflict in the South China Sea.

We sincerely hope that countries involved in the overlapping territorial and sovereignty claims in the region would exercise restraint to prevent the heightening of tension in the region since any adverse development in the South China Sea will affect the Southeast Asian region's stability and security.

On 22 July 1992, ASEAN member countries issued a declaration which reaffirmed the use of dialogue and negotiations instead of force in settling territorial and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea.

It is supposed that by now, after workshops have been held, the opinions and perception of each country involved in the workshop, expressed by participants taking part as individuals rather than in their official capacity, are well understood. What is more important is that the workshop has been able to identify all the existing problems in the region and has made an inventory of them. They constitute important and useful material to determine what further steps need to be taken in the effort to achieve a comprehensive solution to problems in the region later.

In his opening address at the informal workshop in Surabaya yesterday, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas diplomatically spoke on the possibility of upgrading the present workshop format and engage in a more formal government-to-government dialogue in the future. It is hoped that under more formal settings, participants would feel more free to make suggestions and are open when discussing matters. On the one hand, such gatherings would make it difficult for participants to reach a consensus or a concrete agreement.

On the other hand, if the gathering is upgraded to a formal status, participants might be more cautious in the negotiations or adopt a "reserved" attitude when expressing their views, thus making it more difficult for them to reach a consensus.

However, regardless of any kind of format, the future workshops will be a consensus that will bind all countries involved in the dispute in the region. The workshop is definitely not aimed at making it look like an academic forum or just an informal gathering, but it should be a forum that would be beneficial for managing potential conflicts in the region.

In view of this, perhaps the time has come for us to take more positive measures towards solving the current problems that exist in the region. Perhaps it would be wiser if the name of workshops in future—when the need arises—be changed to "The Management of Potential Cooperation in the South China Sea."

Laos

Construction Front Greets SRV National Day

BK0309114993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Telegram of congratulations from the Standing Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction Central Committee to the Presidium and the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in Hanoi on the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the SRV National Day, 2 September 1993—date not given]

[Text] On the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the establishing of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, on behalf of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee and the multiethnic Lao people, we would like to extend our warm greetings and best wishes to the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee and all the heroic Vietnamese people.

Throughout the past 48 years, under the capable, astute, and clear-sighted leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], which was established by Chairman Ho Chi Minh, the great and beloved leader, the fraternal Vietnamese people joined forces in the Vietnamese united national front to carry out movement to fight for national liberation. Step by step, they defeated the invading French colonialists and American imperialists and other reactionary forces and attained great victory and success in the cause of building and defending the nation. They have successfully made progress in adapting themselves to new concepts. As a result, the economic and social foundations of the SRV have improved gradually. Its implementation of the international duties of lending support and assistance to the peoples of brotherly countries, and contributing attentively to the tasks of defending peace and stability in Indochina, Southeast Asia, and the world have continued to make the status, role, and influence of the SRV more prominent in the international arena.

The LFNC and multiethnic Lao people are most delighted in and proud of the great victory and success the fraternal Vietnamese people have attained and regard them as our own victory and success.

We would like to take this glorious opportunity to express our sincere thanks and profound gratitude to the party, the government, front, and the fraternal Vietnamese people, for their consistant rendering of very invaluable, mammoth support and assistance to our revolutionary cause. We wish the VFF and the fraternal Vietnamese people new and ever greater victory in implementing the resolutions of the seventh congress of the CPV, which is aimed at making Vietnam a prosperous country and the Vietnamese people rich and strong. May the relations of friendship and special solidarity and all-round cooperation between the peoples of Laos and Vietnam improve steadily and last forever.

Leaders Pay Respects to Late Somlat Chanthamat

BK0509034293 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Beginning at 0900 on 4 September at the Office Club of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee in Vientiane, a ceremony was organized for laying wreaths to mourn the death and pay respects to the soul of late Comrade Somlat Chanthamat, Political Bureau member of the LPRP Central Committee and head of the Propaganda and Training Board of the party Central Committee, who passed away at 2150 on 2 September of illness at the age of 60.

The wreaths were laid in an atmosphere of grief and sorrow over the demise of Somlat Chanthamat, who is gone forever.

The wreath laying ceremony began with a group from the party Central Committee led by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the LPRP Central Committee and prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]; and Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and president of the LPDR. The group included Political Bureau members of the party Central Committtee, advisers to the party Central Committee, and many members of the party Central Committee.

Next at the ceremony was the National Assembly team led by Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly.

Then came a group of government representatives led by Comrade Khamphoui Keoboualapha, party Central Committee Political Bureau member, deputy prime minister, and chairman of the Laos' Planning and Cooperation Committee.

After that, representatives of various offices, organizations, ministries, and equivalent organizations of the central party and government, as well as organizations and services in Vientiane municipality, laid wreaths in sequence to mourn the death and pay homage to the remains and the soul of Comrade Somlat Chanthamat.

The ceremony continued until 1700. [passage omitted]

Philippines

Ramos Addresses 'People's Economic Summit'

HK0809060293

[Editorial Report] Quezon City Radyo Ng Bayan in Tagalog at 0130 GMT on 8 September begins broadcasting in progress a speech by Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos at the one-day "People's Economic Summit" in Manila. President Ramos speaks in English.

In his speech, Ramos announces the creation of a new "social compact" called the "Social Pact for Empowered Economic Development" (SPEED). As part of this "social compact," a new task force on consultation is being organized. Ramos says: "Specifically, this body will monitor and review the agreements arrived at during the summit and other national consultations thereafter, ensure the implementation of the agreements we have arrived at here, provide a mechanism for regular consultations in the formulation of government policies and programs at different levels, and, with the participation of our people's organizations, ensure the compliance with my directives of all departments and government agencies in the implementation of programs and projects."

Ramos discusses what impact this new task force may have and concludes by saying: "History is made by people's creative responses to the challenge of adversity. The questions we Filipinos must ask ourselves are:

Should we become inured to the inertia of failure, shall we always be cry-babies, or are we a people strong enough to dare to be the best at what we can do? The answer is ours together to give. Let not posterity say that when the challenge came to our generation, we proved unequal to it. For at historic junctures in the past, our forebears had faced up to the challenge of adversity and emerged triumphant. I believe, with God's help, we can do so again."

Commission Confirms Cabinet Secretaries, Envoys

HK0809052293 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 8 Sep 93 p 7

[Report by Joem Macaspac]

[Text] The Commission on Appointments [CA] yesterday approved the ad interim appointments of five cabinet secretaries, six ambassadors and a commissioner of the Civil Service Commission.

Those confirmed were: Executive Secretary [Sec.] Teofisto Guingona Jr.; Press Secretary Jesus Sison; Science and Technology Sec. Ricardo Gloria; Social Welfare and Development Sec. Corazon Alma de Leon; and Transportation and Communications Sec. Jesus Garcia Jr.

Also confirmed were Antonio Basilio, chief of mission to be designated deputy chief of mission for economic affairs, Washington D.C.; Rosalinda de Perio-Santos, Philippine ambassador to Israel; Vesta Cuyugan, ambassador to New Zealand; Sanchez Ali, ambassador to Oman; Juanito Jarasa, ambassador to India; and Ernesto Llamas, ambassador to Pakistan.

The CA also approved the nomination of Thelma Gaminde as commissioner of the Civil Service Commission.

All the nominees, except Santos, received the unanimous approval of the commission.

Guingona was absent in the proceedings but the commission, claiming he holds a position that requires the President's utmost trust and confidence, nevertheless approved his nomination.

However, it took the commission three hours of intense deliberations behind closed doors before the members agreed to approve during the session, on a 15-1 vote, Santos' nomination.

Santos has been in the DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] for 37 long years.

But Sen. Santanina Rasul, in casting the lone dissenting vote against Santos, maintained questions regarding the qualifications of the ambassador still needed to be resolved.

Even her staff during her stint in Switzerland filed an administrative case against her, Rasul said.

Rasul added that because of this, Santos does not deserve to become ambassador to any post.

On the other hand, Garcia's nomination was approved only after the commission's transportation committee conducted a marathon hearing on his appointment earlier that morning.

Garcia has been bypassed by the commission five times before. Sen. John Osmena has persisted in blocking his confirmation by the chamber.

But Osmena was absent in yesterday's meeting, paving the way for the unanimous approval of Garcia's nomination.

Earlier, Osmena admitted that Garcia tapped the right backer—the Iglesia ni Cristo—in seeking approval of his appointment in the commission.

Osmena hinted he will have to give in to the "request" of the powerful religious sect which has backed him consistently in previous electoral campaigns.

During the session, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon was elected to the commission by his colleagues in the Senate.

Biazon was elected to the following committees: national defense; foreign affairs, constitutional commissions and offices; public works and highways; transportation and communication; environment and natural resources; interior and local government; agrarian reform; tourism and economic development; agriculture and food; and trade and industry.

Thailand

Suphachi Welcomes Removal From U.S. Watch List

BK0809093593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak told reporters on his arrival at the National Assembly this morning that the United States has removed Thailand from the PFC list. He said:

[Begin Recording] [Suphachai] The USTR [U.S. Trade Representative] has now decided to remove Thailand from the PFC [U.S. Priority Foreign Country watch] list. We have been informed that the actions taken by Thailand since the beginning of this year in suppressing copyright violations and that the letter the Thai Government sent to U.S. in late August have reaffirmed much improvement in the protection of intellectual property in Thailand. They have also congratulated us and said the next consultative meeting will be held in January 1994 to review the status of Thailand in the PWL, priority watch list, and discuss the way to remove us from it. Unlike PFC, the PWL is not supported by Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Law. In other words, we will not be subject to any trade retaliation. I am confident we will be able to get out of the PWL because of the improvement in

Thai-U.S. economic relations. U.S. Trade Representative Kantor said he expected to see a Thai Government delegation at the upcoming Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting.

[Unidentified reporter] Is the removal of Thailand from the list permanent or temporary?

[Suphachai] We cannot say whether this is permanent or temporary. For example, Taiwan was once removed from the PFC and later included on it. Our case is different. Taiwan, in the past, failed to come up with a clear response. On the contrary, we have been gradually taking action to deal with each problem such as those pertaining to copyright and patent violations. Since we are now off the PFC, I believe we will in no way be on the list. We want to get ourselves off all watch lists as quickly as possible. The PFC is the most important because it is a U.S. law. The other watch lists incorporate normal monitoring measures. Hence, we will not do our trade...I believe that from now on Thai-U.S. trade will further increase. We have received more purchase orders from the United States since the negotiations in August. [end recording]

Canned Tuna Faces 'Strict' Restriction in U.S.

BK0609095193 Bangkok PHUCHATKAN in Thai 6 Sep 93 p 3

[Text] Sitthisak Chat-amonwong, general manager of Thai Agrifoods Company Limited, told PHUCHATKAN that the United States is still imposing restrictions on canned tuna from Thailand.

Sitthisak said that Thai canned tuna is subject to strict quality inspection by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Companies suspected of exporting inferior quality product to the U.S. market will be put on the Automatic Detention List [preceding three words published in English].

The Thai companies whose names are on the list include Thakong Food, Thai Union, Thai Ruamsin, Songkhla Canning, B & M, Royal Canning, and Thai Agrifoods Company.

Ninety percent of Thai canned tuna passes the U.S. quality test. Since the Thai canning companies buy tuna from the same sources, the quality of the canned tuna should not rest with the production process.

Sitthisak noted that since Thai canned tuna has been facing the restriction in the U.S. market, the Thai exporters should turn to the Japanese market.

Cabinet Approves Thai-Russian Commission Accord

BK0809065893 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Thailand and the Russian Federation will set up a joint commission to promote bilateral cooperation. The Cabinet yesterday approved the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' proposal to set up a joint Thai-Russian commission to strengthen relations between the two countries. The foreign minister or his representative is authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the Thai Government and to be the chairman of the Thai committee. He is also entrusted to appoint a vice chairman, a secretary, and committee members in the joint commission. The two countries agreed to sign the Joint Thai-Russion Commission agreement during the visit of Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan. He will be visiting the Russian Federation during September 15 and 19, 1993.

Reportage on Action Against Southern Separatists

Malaysia Agrees To Help

BK0409014393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Sep 93 p A1

[Text] The Malaysian military has agreed to a Thai military strike against Muslim separatist guerrillas hiding in the Malaysian jungle, according to Fourth Army Commander Kitti Rattanachaya.

Lt Gen Kitti said his Malaysian military counterpart, whom he did not identify, had agreed to help the offensive, jointly carry out an operation, and allow Thai troops to cross the border in "hot pursuit" of the guerrillas.

"We have reached an agreement in principle. We are now discussing the details of the planned military cooperation," Kitti said without providing further details.

The regional army commander would not say when the strike would take place.

"Eveybody will know when it happens," he said.

Malaysian authorities could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Kitti said an estimated 70 separatists have been using Sankalakiri mountain range, which defines part of the Thai-Malaysian border, as their base and as a logistical supply line for years.

Hundreds of rangers have been assembled along the Thai-Malaysian border for about two weeks in preparation for a thrust against the separatists.

Earlier, Kitti said the separatists were using at least two jungle bases in the Malaysian states of Perak and Kelantan.

The Malaysian Defence Ministry has denied that there are any guerrilla bases in Malaysia. It said it had checked out the suspected hideouts and found that they were villages inhabited by Malaysians.

The Fourth Army, which replaced the Interior Ministry as the lead agency in the anti-terrorist campaign in the South, has blamed splinter groups of separatist guerrillas for the spate of terrorist attacks in Muslim-dominated Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat since Aug 1.

The attacks include the burning of 34 schools, a grenade thrown into a Buddhist temple, the ambush of an army engineering squad, the murder of a Buddhist villager and the ambush of a train and a bus.

Sgt Charoen Kokkaeo, a member of a ranger unit awaiting an order to attack the guerrillas, said yesterday his men had been assigned to keep watch at an unidentified encampment on the Thai-Malaysian border for 15 days.

"We are ready to strike the enemy when we receive the order from the Fourth Army Region commander," Charoen said.

The ranger said he had detected unusual movements of Malaysian government troops near the border.

Sgt Wichit Chaiphum, chief of a bomb-sniffing dog unit, said 20 specially trained dogs had been despatched to help the rangers clear landmines laid by the guerrillas.

Meanwhile, Kamnan Prasit Kaeonok, of Tambon Kirikhet in Yala's Than To district, said yesterday he would consider evacuating the villages under his care before any attack on the guerrillas.

Defense Minister on 'Terrorism'

BK0409012193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Sep 93 p 1

[Text] Defence Minister Wichit Sukmak yesterday inspected the situation in the South and expressed confidence that the problems of terrorism in the region would be resolved.

Speaking to reporters in Pattani before getting on a helicopter to inspect Yala, Gen Wichit said the situation was now under control and there was no cause for worry.

Gen Wichit also said that Fourth Army Region commander Lt-Gen Kitti Rattanachaya was coordinating with the Malaysian military corps commander in an effort to suppress the southern separatists blamed for torching 34 schools and a spate of other terrorist acts.

He said he has also been coordinating with the Malaysian authorities and added that Thailand has received good cooperation from its southern neighbour.

Thai intelligence gathering in the region has also improved greatly now that military, civilian and provincial administration officials are cooperating fully, he said.

Lt-Gen Kitti said the situation has improved because the mass media was now demonstrating a true understanding of what is really happening in the South.

Commenting on the military operation to destroy two separatist bases near the border, Lt-Gen Kitti said that planning was progressing well.

"We have been coordinating with Malaysia on this. It's a matter of sovereignty. But we have reached an agreement with Malaysia about our military operation," the commander said.

He said that all that remained to be agreed on was whether the military drive would be a combined operation with Malaysia, or whether each country would stage their own operation

He asked the media not to refer to Muslim separatists as "separatist bandits" because this was a matter of sensitivity in Malaysia where people feel that all Muslims are brothers and sisters.

Commenting on the Opposition's desire to debate the southern situation during next week's second and third reading of the budget bill Gen Wichit said the Opposition wants to express the thinking of the people to the Government.

He said he is ready to explain the situation to the House.

Meanwhile, a group of 75 persons who helped spread the use of the Thai language in the southern border provinces visited Deputy Prime Minister Banyat Banthatthan at Government House yesterday.

Mr Banyat told them the Government realised the importance of communication between the Government and the people in various regions and had organised the project to spread knowledge about the Thai language.

He said that the border provinces were largely populated with Muslims who use Malay as their main language.

The Government wanted to encourage the use of Thai because it would benefit development in the area.

The local people will be the ones to carry out the development plan, a master plan of which is being drawn up by the National Economic and Social Development Board for the South.

Mr Banyat said that the investigation into the identity of the terrorists would soon be concluded.

He said that there are already about 20 suspects but the authorities are trying to secure witnesses so that there will be no claims or cries of them being scapegoats when they are arrested.

General Briefs Reporters

BK0509102993 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] According to a report from the Public Relations Department correspondent in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, Lieutenant General Kitti Rattanachaya, commander of the Fourth Army Region, this afternoon briefed the mass media on the situation in the three southern border provinces [Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat].

Speaking at his residence in the Wachirawut Camp about the spate of attacks that have broken out since early August, Lt. Gen. Kitti said that some are the work of terrorists and some are not. He said the violence has touched off criticism and analyses that have been reported by the mass media. This has greatly confused the general public. Those with ill intentions toward the country have seized the opportunity to carry out more attacks. There have been rumors that teachers have been targeted for attacks; rumors of sabotage have spread from five to nine southern provinces. What has happened is even worse than the terrorist attacks themselves; they have caused confusion and instilled suspicion among the people and created divisions in the nation.

The Fourth Army commander said that in fact the situation in the south was not as serious as depicted in the news. The incidents are similar to what happened once in the past, and the government authorities finally managed to put that trouble under control. He said the torching of 35 schools and the ambush of a train was the work of the Pattani United Liberation Organization [PULO] splinter groups, which received support from fronts among the local people. The ambush of a group of Army soldiers and the ambush of a bus, meanwhile, were the work of the National Revolutionary Front [Barisan Revolusi National, BRN] Congress. The recent attacks were launched by young radicals who belong to the new generation of those terrorist movements. They have resorted to new tactics to achieve the secessionist goal: the establishment of an autonomous state of Pattani. They are motivated by hatred and bitterness against the injustice that prevails in the south, and have thus resorted to terrorism.

Lt. Gen. Kitti Rattanachaya appealed for help from southerners to unmask the so-called fronts of those terrorists responsible for the school burnings. He said that once the truth is established, the situation in the south will be restored to normal. He said that it was a pity that the south, which was heading toward economic prosperity, had to meet with such obstacles. The lack of stability in the eyes of foreigners and the general public has shattered hopes for prosperity there.

He said that in addition to the task of wiping out terrorist elements, the combined civilian, police, and military task force also has the responsibility to forge national unity. He called on the general public to be wise in their judgment and to be firm. They should not be shaken by the string of violence, but try to restore the good image of the nation. He appealed to the people not to believe rumors but to listen to the armed forces and the government apparatus, which are now trying to solve national problems based on the national interests.

Army Reports Clash 5 Sep

BK0609144493 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Excerpt] A military patrol unit from Senanarong Military Camp in Songkhla Province clashed with a band of National Revolutionary Front [BRN] separatists yesterday at Ikase village in Sisakon District, Narathiwat Province. Two soldiers were wounded during the 10-minute encounter.

The clash took place when the patrol came across the separatists belonging to Ari Tobali's group who were coming out of the jungle to collect supplies at the village.

Authorities found blood stains at the site of the incident after the separatists retreated into the deep jungle. [passage omitted]

NSC Official on Security

BK0709130193 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] General Charan Kunlawanit, secretary general of the National Security Council [NSC], spoke with newsmen at noon today about the situation in the south. He said the prime minister has assigned the interior minister the authority to speak on this issue. He pointed out that the people who perpetrated the incidents in the region are those who have ill intentions toward the country and, therefore, everyone must help to give information to the officials concerned in order to identify these people.

Asked about the NSC assessment of the situation, Gen. Charan said the terrorist acts are localized and have no capability to threaten national security. He is confident in the ability of the government mechanism to protect the people from threats to their lives and property. Asked whether the incidents were the work of the same group, Gen. Charan said the incidents may be connected and that he may create confusion if he says anything at this time. The investigation officials should be the ones to speak on the issue.

The NSC secretary general noted that the government is determined to solve the problem in the south and officials concerned are working on it. He is confident that every political party wants to see people enjoy peace and tranquillity. No party has ill intention toward the people and the country.

NPKC-Linked Officers Lose Posts in Reshuffle

BK0609022793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Sep 93 p 1, 3

[Text] MORE officers closely linked to the now-defunct National Peace-keeping Council lost their posts in the annual military reshuffle yesterday, although those directly involved in the May 1992 events stayed put or were even promoted.

The reshuffle also saw a change in the leadership of the Armed Forces' National Security Centre responsible for the military intelligence work.

The move was believed to be connected to a widespread call for an improvement in official intelligence gathering following the recent spate of violence in the South.

A total of 594 military officers were affected in the changes which were announced on national radio and television networks last night.

Apart from the unexpected appointment of Army Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit's classmate to a powerful post in the Army, the Army reshuffle did not represent much of a surprise.

Despite widespread reports of attempts in some quarters to push for his promotion, Deputy Air Force Commander-in-Chief Suthep Theppharak lost his post and will become the Armed Forces' inspector-general.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Suthep will succeed his ACM Kaset Rotchananin, formerly vice- chairman of the National Peace-keeping Council which was formed by the once-powerful Royal Chunlachomklao Academy's Class 5.

Class 5 members in the Army who were further eclipsed in the reshuffle were Lt-Gen Ariya Ukhotkit, Lt-Gen Yutthana Khamdi and Lt- Gen Yutthaphan Makaramani.

Gen Ariya, currently an Army adviser, was transferred to a position attached to Army headquaraters while Lt-Gen Yutthana, who is assistant Army chief of staff, will be chief of the staff officers of the Army commander-in-chief.

Lt-Gen Yutthaphan was transferred from his position as director of the Territorial Defence Department to a post attached to the Army commander-in-chief's office.

However, Army officers who were directly involved in the bloody crackdown of democracy demonstrators in May 1992 appear to have been unaffected in the reshuffle.

Among them was Lt-Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi who will remain as director of the Institute of Army Academics after being transferred from the powerful First Army Region commander's post following the May events.

In what was seen as a surprise, Fifth Infantry Division Commander Maj-Gen Suwinai Boribunnangkun was promoted to deputy commander of the Fourth Army Region.

The officer was commander of the well-known Kanchanaburi-based Ninth Infantry Division when he led the military crackdown on the democracy demonstrators before being transferred to the Fifth Division in the South.

In another unexpected move, Gen Phaibun Emmaphan, chief of the staff officers of the Army commander-inchief's office, was promoted the new Army Chief of Staff.

The appointment of Gen Phaibun, Gen Wimon's friend in Class 5, prompted speculation in some quarters that the Army is grooming him to be his heir when Gen Wimon retires in 1995.

Gen Phaibun, who retires in 1996, will replace Gen Pramon Phalasin who becomes assistant commander-in-chief.

A source said Gen Pramon, a graduate from the Royal Chunlachomklao Academy's Class 6, should have been promoted to deputy army commander and not assistant commander.

"There is no doubt that the reshuffle will disappoint him (Gen Pramon) who is considered to be one of the top members in Class 6," said the source.

The source said the chief-of-staff position in the Army is the second most important post in the Army after the Army boss.

"It rarely occurs that the Army chief-of-staff is shifted to the position of Army assistant commander.

Except for Assistant Army Chief Gen Yutthana Yaemphan who will retire at the end of this month, the rest of the "Top Five" at the Army remain unchanged.

Other two leading Army officers who were unaffected were Gen San Siphen, deputy army commander, and Gen Choetchai Thirat-thanon. Both are members of Class 5 and will retire next year.

There was no change in the leadership of the four regional army commander posts.

The reshuffles in the Navy and the Air Force were seen as a big surprise and, above all, a reassurance that potential coup plotters would be kept at bay.

The new Navy Commander-In-Chief, Adm Prachet Siridet, and the new Air Force Commander-in-Chief, ACM M.R. Siriphong Thongyai, were seen as "professionals" who would stay away from politics and tend to their own business; military sources said.

Unlike the military leaders over the past several years, the new breed of leaders would be more independent of political influence and more resistant to temptation to stage a coup, unlike those in the National Peacekeeping Council junta, they said.

Military observers said Adm Prachet, who is replacing retiring Navy chief Adm Wichet Karunyawanit, and ACM M.R. Siriphong, who is succeeding retiring Air Force chief ACM Kan Phimanthip would give the Government some assurances that they will be as professional as their predecessors have been.

Retiring Deputy Navy Commander-in-Chief Adm Songsit Kittiphirachon remarked that the new military leaders would declare their turf "politics-free" zones.

Military officers who spoke on condition of anonymity said they will continue to follow their new boss's orders though they honestly had not expected him until very recently.

The Navy is holding a frigate-led ceremony to bid farewell to retiring Adm Wichet off Sattahip, Chon Buri today. A procession of 39 ships will sail in a formation to spell out "Wichet."

Adm Vichet, one of the Chunlachomklao Military Class 0143, better known as Class 5, was a classmate of his own successor, Adm Prachet.

The thick-browed Adm Prachet has kept a low profile until lately, when he was spotted seeing his predecessor off from Don Muang airport and receiving him back upon his arrival.

The new Navy chief who will have three full years to stay at the top post before he retires in 1996, was greeted warmly by privy councillor Gen Prem Tinsulanon during the ex-premier's 73rd birthday at his Sisao home late last month.

Royal Fleet Commander Adm Santiphap Muming, who is leading more than 4,000 sailors, 48 ships and 18 airplanes in the farewell ceremony in honour of his retiring boss, had been expected to be given the top post until recently.

Adm Santipap, also a classmate of Adm Wichet listened to radio broadcasts of the reshuffle lists at his Sattahip-based fleet headquarters with a few subordinates and did not express any visible surprise, only smiles.

Adm Santipap, who has one more year to serve before he retires, was appointed Deputy Navy Commander-In-Chief.

In terms of seniority Adm Santiphap had an edge over all the other admirals but Adm Prachet was chosen probably because his predecessor preferred him to carry out his policy to turn a "brown navy" into a"blue navy," sources said.

According to military observers, two admirals received surprise promotions in the top five—VAdm Mattra Amphaiphat, a Class 8 officer, from Deputy Navy Chief-of-Staff to Assistant Navy Commander-In-Chief, and VAdm Uran Mongkhonnawin, a Class 6 officer, from 2nd Navy Region Commander to Royal Fleet Commander.

Navy Chief-Of-Staff Adm Surawut Maharom a Class 8 officer, remained in his post for a third consecutive year.

Deputy Royal Fleet Commander V-Adm Winai Naiyananon, a Class 5 officer, who had been earlier expected to be launched into the top five, was appointed Sattahip Naval Base Commander.

In the Air Force, when ACM M.R. Siriphong was promoted as Air Force chief, ACM Suthep Theppharak, who is close to ex-Air Force chief ACM Kaset Rotchananin, was moved to the post of Inspector General of the Armed Forces, in place of the retiring ACM Kaset.

Though the two marshals are equally senior being Class 6 officers ACM Suthep, who will retire in 1995, was not chosen apparently because of his link with the NPKC leaders, however. ACM M.R. Siriphong will retire in 1996.

Another marshal expected earlier to take ACM Kan's place is ADM Roengchai Sanitphan, a Class 5 officer, who is still in an inactive post attached to a commander.

Meanwhile, Assistant Air Force Commander-In-Chief ACM Prachum Chaisiri, a Class 5 officer, was promoted as Deputy Air Force Commander-in-Chief. He will retire next year.

ACM Samat Sotsathit a Class 7 officer, was moved from Air Force Chief-of-Staff to Assistant Air Force Commander-In-Chief while AM Kriangkrai Sinthuwanon, a Class 7 officer, was promoted from Deputy Air Force Chief-of-Staff to Air Force Chief-of-Staff.

A surprise marshal picked up from an inactive post as the other Assistant Air Force Commander-in-Chief is AM Charun Wutthikan.

Vietnam

Nguyen Khanh Attends Radio Anniversary Ceremony

BK0709133793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] The Voice of Vietnam radio station organized a solemn ceremony at 58 Quan Su Street, Hanoi, on the morning of 7 September to mark 48 years since its founding—7 September 1945 to 7 September 1993. Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh attended the ceremony. Also attending the function were Comrade Ha Dang, director of the party Central Committee's Ideology and Culture Department; Comrade Thai Ninh, a leading official of the party Central Committee's Ideology and Culture Department; Comrade Tran Hoan, minister of culture and information; many comrade editors in chief and deputy editors in chief in charge of a number of press agencies at the central level and in Hanoi; and delegates from a number of ministries, departments, and sectors concerned.

The comrade members of the editorial staff of the Voice of Vietnam; Comrade Tran Lam, former editor in chief of the Voice of Vietnam; and representatives of correspondents, editors, radio announcers, and technicians of the Voice of Vietnam attended this solemn ceremony.

Comrade Phan Quang, director general of the Voice of Vietnam, delivered the opening speech. In expressing his views, Comrade Phan Quang pointed out: Over the past 48 years, cadres and correspondents of all generations of the Voice of Vietnam have made joint efforts to build and consolidate the Voice of Vietnam to make it worthy of being called the mouthpiece of the state and government and help increase its prestige at home and abroad.

With 69 hours of daily programming—including 43 hours of programs in Vietnamese, Hmong, Cambodian, and E-de to meet the demands of our compatriots, and 26 hours of programs in 11 different foreign languages to reach out to the outside world—the Voice of Vietnam has asserted its role and position on the ideological front and has made a worthy contribution in the two wars of resistance as well as the ongoing renovation undertaking initiated by the party and state.

Comrade Phan Quang emphatically said: To serve the ongoing cause of national construction and to get ready for the start of the 21st century, the Voice of Vietnam has effected restructuring and has built more material and technical bases to make itself politically and ideologically firm, gain professionalism, and possess relatively modern technology. As an immediate objective, steps will be taken to improve the quality of cadres, adjust broadcasting schedules rationally, apply computers to broadcasting services, and work toward the goal of bringing programs to listeners countrywide via satellite.

Under the direction of the Secretariat and the party Central Committee's Ideology and Culture Department, and with the assistance of various departments and sectors at the central level and in Hanoi, the Voice of Vietnam will make every effort to fulfill the task entrusted by the party and state and become a truly sharp instrument for the party and state on the ideological front.

Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh delivered a speech welcoming the 48th founding anniversary of the Voice of Vietnam, which was established in the same year the state was founded. He said: Over the past 48 years, the Voice of Vietnam has reflected our people's revolutionary struggle under the party's leadership in a timely and accurate manner, always linking its operations with the activities of the party, state, and people. Steps have been taken to improve the quality of programs and the professionalism of the editorial staff as well as to modernize equipment and technology.

Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh recalled the fact that the prime minister of the government has recently entrusted the Voice of Vietnam with a number of new tasks. He expressed the hope that cadres, correspondents, engineers, and technicians would make efforts to build and develop the Voice of Vietnam into an important mouthpiece of the government to oversee in a satisfactory manner the operations of other radio stations throughout the country and give them technical and professional guidance.

Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh reasserted the government's resolve to help the Voice of Vietnam reach out to listeners throughout the country. He expressed the hope that all departments and sectors concerned will help the Voice of Vietnam fulfill its professional tasks, and that thanks to better quality programs, the Voice of Vietnam will be able to reach out to listeners across the country.

Many press agencies at the central level and in Hanoi and a number of ministries, departments, and sectors sent bouquets to congratulate the Voice of Vietnam on its 48th founding anniversary.

Le Phuoc Tho Inspects Ha Tay Province

BK0709053193 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Comrade Le Phuoc Tho, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Party Central Committee and director of its Organization Department, recently visited Thanh Oai district, Ha Tay province, where he worked with the district party committee.

The comrade leaders of Thanh Oai district briefed Comrade Le Phuoc Tho on the selection of pilot projects for the implementation of the Party Central Committee's third plenum resolution on renovating and revamping the party in Binh Minh and Do Dong villages.

Based on the results of the classification and evaluation of party members's abilities, all party organizations at the grass- roots level have elected outstanding, competent party members with good educational backgrounds to various positions of leadership in their localities.

By 1995, Thanh Hoai district will strive to bring down 9.04 percent of the number of needy families and increase the value of various branches and professions to 55 billion dong, the grain output to 100,000 metric tons, and the food output to 70,000 metric tons annually.

Addressing the Thanh Oai district party committee, Comrade Le Phuoc Tho pointed to the leading role of the local party organization and administration in applying advanced science and technology to agricultural production, as well as to the development of various branches, professions, and animal husbandry.

Comrade Le Phuoc Tho also urged the local party organization and administration to pay attention to helping needy families expand production, saying that the yardstick to measure the task of consolidating the party organization and administration and the vanguard role of party members must be determined by the results of the effort to make the people prosperous, the country powerful, and society civilized.

Party Leaders Attend School Opening Ceremonies

BK0509141293 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Today nearly 18 million students of general schools and kindergartens nationwide, together with their teachers celebrated the opening of the new school year. Many party and state leading comrades of Hanoi and other localities attended these functions.

In Hanoi, Comrade Pham The Duyet, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of Hanoi party Committee, attended the ceremony of the newly established or newly detached schools such as the Giang Vo Junior General High School No. 2 in Ba Dinh Precinct, and the Tran Hung Dao General High School in Dong Da Precinct.

At the Giang Vo Junior General High School, Comrade Pham The Duyet praised the teachers for their efforts last year which brought about good results. He wished the teachers and students would continue to improve on the campaign to teach and learn better in the new school year.

Also, this morning, over 4000 students and teachers of the Trung Vuong General High School in Hoan Kiem Precinct joyfully celebrated the opening of the new school year. This year, over 400 new students have been admitted to seven new classes. Comrade Truong My Hoa, secretary of the party Central Committee and president of the Vietnam Women Union, and Comrade Le At Hoi, chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee, attended the opening and spoke to the teachers and students, urging them to strive for higher records in the new school year.

Dang Quan Thuy, Assembly Group Visit Provinces

BK0809034393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] A National Assembly delegation, led by its Vice Chairman Dang Quan Thuy, paid a working visit to Kien Giang and Minh Hai Provinces from 28 August to 6 September.

The delegation was briefed by the comrade leaders of the party committees, people's councils, and people's committees of the two provinces on the performance of socioecomic work. They discussed national defense and security tasks and the struggle against corruption and smuggling in their areas, as well as on the activities of the groups of national assembly deputies and people's councillors of the two provinces.

The delegation also heard reports summing up the views contributed by various localities to the drafts of the border law, the law revising and supplementing the law on military services, and the regulations on safeguarding national defense projects and military zones.

In general, despite numerous difficulties, the socioeconomic situation in Kien Giang and Minh Hai in recent years has undergone many changes, gradually developed in all aspects, and become relatively stable.

National Assembly Vice Chairman Dang Quan Thuy welcomed and highly appreciated the efforts and achievements of the party organizations, administrations, and people of the two provinces. He said:

Kien Giang and Minh Hai must carry out economic development in close combination with national defense and security, while paying attention to general planning for population distribution and environmental problems. The people's councils must carry out their activities in such a way as to be in line with the actual situation, to keep them in closer touch with the people, and to achieve better results.

Report on Shipping Company, Services

BK0509061893 Hanoi VNA in English 0559 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 5—The Vietnam Ocean Shipping Company (VOSCO) has become a main force of the Vietnamese sea transport service.

VOSCO now has an ocean-going merchant fleet of 23 vessels with a total capacity of more than 200,000 DWT [deadweight tons], accounting for 40 percent of the capacity of the whole Vietnamese merchant fleet, but undertaking 60 percent of the total yearly volume of freight of the country.

Last year, VOSCO alone transported more than 1.7 million tonnes of goods out of 3.3 million tonnes carried by the whole Vietnamese sea transport service. It achieved a turnover of 44.5 million USD (excluding its turnover in Vietnamese currency). 70 percent of the goods transportation money were collected from the goods charter for foreign countries.

VOSCO'S fleet has really become comparative in the international sea transport market.

Mr. Bui Ngoc Chau, director of VOSCO, said that the fleet often carried out long trips for from 6-9 months, calling at some 160 harbours in 70 countries the world over.

In the near future, VOSCO will set up a container freighter fleet and a crude oil fleet.

The VOSCO merchant fleet is expected to raise its total capacity of one million dwt, a five-fold increase over its existing capacity, or double compared to the present capacity of the whole sea transport service of the country.

An Lao District Begins TV Relay Station Service

BK0309060493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] The Binh Dinh Province Radio and Television Station recently inaugurated and put into service a television relay station in An Lao District. This is a project to commemorate the 48th anniversary of the August Revolution and the 2 September National Day.

The station comprises a satellite relay signal system and a 100- kilowatt color television transmission system which broadcasts in Channel 9 with a coverage area of 15 kms.

Therefore, until now, the three far north districts of Binh Dinh Province have been covered by television signals of the Central Television programs via satellite.

Forests in Mountainous Areas 'Being Destroyed'

BK0409072993 Hanoi VNA in English 0657 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 3—Recent years have witnessed much progress and great changes for the better in the northwestern mountain Province of Son La.

Along the main road from the Moc Chau Plateau upward, new building have sprung up, as well as in small towns in lowlands. Many stilted houses now have tile roofs replacing the traditional thatched roof.

Food, household utensils, and other consumer goods, even expensive electronic goods such as hi-fi radio cassettes are on sale in many places.

However, some changes have worried people a lot: vast forests including primeaval ones in the province are being destroyed, mainly by ethnic minority people doing slash-and-burn farming.

Over the past 20 years, Son La has lost about 40,000 ha of forest, accounting for 3 percent of tree cover in the province. Moreover, slash-and-burn farming has caused more than 1,400 forest fires.

A survey conducted in 1973 showed that the province had more than 164,000 ha of forest, but the area has shrunk to about 124,730 ha, mainly poor and young forests. There remains only 10,000 ha of good timber. On average the province is deprived every year of nearly 700ha. In 1992 alone, it lost as much as 1,191 ha.

At many places tree cover accounts for only 6 percent of the natural area. Many are also short of water, and food crops in the lower parts of the province are always unstable.

The population meanwhile has increased to 700,000 from about 300,000 20 years ago, at a birthrate of 2 percent. Most of the migrants from overpopulated areas in lowlands have settled in inter- district and inter-provincial road junctures convenient for transport and goods exchanges while remote mountain areas are populated only by ethnic minority people, such as the h'mong and the dzao. In recent years, these people have burnt forest for food cropping.

People in some districts now grow sugar-cane. This brings good money but has a very bad side effect: Planters will need to process their crops and will therefore cut down more trees for firewood.

According to the chairman of the people's committee of Son La Province, continuing logging and slash-and-burn farming have combined to worsen the socio-economic situation.

Now, alongside efforts to resolve the food problem, Son La tries hard to preserve the present forest cover.

It encourages tree planting by allotting forest lands on contract to each farmer household and each worker at state-owned plantations.

On that basis people have begun turning their allotments into farms and orchards. Some 5,000 such households are now doing quite well.

The authorities also deal more severely with violators of forestry regulations. Last year they brought to trial people responsible for two major forest fires. This had a good effect on public awareness.

Australia

Cook Says No Compromise on Blair House Accord

BK0309113993 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0830 GMT 3 Sep 93

[From "International Report" program]

[Text] Australia and other farm exporting nations have warning Germany they will not accept any watering down of a key agricultural accord. The warning follows suggestions Germany could join France in efforts to water down the so-called Blair House Accord, which underpins the current round of world trade talks. Until last week, France has been the only country to voice serious concern about the Blair House deal, struck last year between the United States and the European Community. That changed when German Chancellor Helmut Kohl claimed Bonn had enormous problems with the accord. Mark Tamhane reports there is a growing concern in Australia and the United States that the long-running world trade talks may be jeopardized just when agreement was in sight.

[Begin recording] [Tamhane] More than 100 nations, which make up the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade or GATT, are close to finalizing agreements on a number of fronts but at the 11th hour a hard-won agriculture deal could be scuttled. France has been working hard to renegotiate the landmark Blair House deal, struck last December between the US and the EC. But until last week, there'd been little enthusiasm for change from Germany, Europe's economic power house. The accord limits output in subsidies for some crops and it's being used as a benchmark for GATT agriculture agreement. Chancellor Kohl's comments have sent shockwaves through free-trading countries like Australia, who fear the unraveling abuse of negotiation and see the prospects of a $200 billion windfall from a GATT agreement going out the window. Australia's Trade Minister Peter Cook leads the CAIRNS group, which includes Canada, New Zealand, Asian and South American farm exporting nations. Together they make up the third fourth in the GATT talks. Speaking in parliament in Canberra, Senator Cook made it clear where Australia and the CAIRNS group stand.

[Cook] We believe that there can be absolutely no compromise beyond the Blair House Accord, and since it is the agreement between European Commission and the United States, we believe there is an obligation on the Europeans to accept their side of that agreement, and it will be outrageous that if anyone in Europe or elsewhere should talk about watering down the Blair House Accord any further.

[Tamhane] Australia has formally protested to Germany about Chancellor Kohl's remarks. It's understood Senator Cook called the German ambassador to Australia to explain. Sources say the ambassador said Germany was still committed to the Blair House Accord. Senator Cook's tough talking was timed to coincide with the arrival in Australia of Germany's ceremonial President Richard Von Weizsaeker, who is likely will also be asked to explain the German's position. Canberra is particularly concerned about French's moves to push for a renegotiation of the Blair House Agreement at the summit of European ministers in three weeks. The fear is any moves to renegotiate the agriculture deal will stall the GATT talks, yet again making it impossible for the talks to be all but signed off by December this year. If that deadline isn't met, US President Bill Clinton's mandate to fast track a GATT agreement through the US Congress will expire—meaning the future of the world trade system could be bogged down in the labyrinth of Capitol Hill for years to come. [end recording]

Personnel Serving in PNG Visit Bougainville

BK0609101493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Some of the Australian military personnel attached to the Papua New Guinea [PNG] Defense Force have been given permission to go to Bougainville for specific missions. Defense Minister Robert Ray told the Senate in Canberra that he had given permission for Australian personnel to help restore communications on Bougainville and assess repair needs:

[Begin Ray recording] In accordance with the long-standing arrangements between Australia and the PNG Government on the use of Australian-loan personnel in any politically sensitive situation, I have on occasion approved specific requests from the PNG Government for Australian personnel serving in the PNG security force to visit Bougainville in order to assist the restoration of communication and to assess requirements for infrastructure repair. The government has stated previously that the Bougainville conflict is an internal matter for the PNG Government to resolve. At the same time, it's my view that the situation is not susceptible to a purely military solution. [end recording]

Defense Minister Robert Ray speaking in parliament.

Officials said Senator Ray's comment was based on a statement he made last year that no Australians on loan to the PNG Defense Force had been directly involved in operations in Bougainville.

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